

# THE TIMES

No. 66,270

MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

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MONDAY  
**30**  
EVERY  
WEEK

**STOP** making a  
pantomime of  
Shakespeare

Benedict  
Nightingale  
page 16

**YES  
YES  
YES**

A night of triumph  
with VIAGRA  
page 15

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Tax incentives to start businesses

## Brown wants risk to be rewarded

By Philip Webster and Peter Riddell

A RADICAL package of tax measures to encourage people to take the risk of leaving safe jobs and starting new businesses is being prepared by Gordon Brown for his next Budget.

The Chancellor is expected to propose in his pre-budget report plans that would mean people who take the plunge into starting up new hi-tech companies, paying less tax than if they stayed where they were.

Mr Brown is drawing up further measures designed to help youngsters improve their skills from the moment they start working and to remove obstacles to them getting on as they climb the ladder of opportunity.

Performance-related pay will be encouraged across industry and, if the economic circumstances allow, the long-promised 10p starting rate of tax could be introduced.

Mr Brown is considering fundamental changes to tax and competition law that will mean special relief for companies that invest in innovation and research and development. There is expected to be tax relief to help companies train workers.

Mr Brown's determination to bridge Britain's productivity gap with its main competitors is set out in an interview for *The Times*. Many of the proposals have emerged from discussions with businessmen. "I want to reward risk-takers," he says.

In his interview, Mr Brown rejects charges after last week's reshuffle that the Government's welfare reform programme has stalled. He makes plain that the proposals put forward by Frank Field, the former Minister for Welfare Reform, for a compulsory second pension could not have been contemplated because they would have cost billions in the short-term.

"I am not going to become a taxing and spending Chancellor," he says.

During his interview the Chancellor also backed from directly criticising Mr Field.

When it was pointed out that Mr Field had cast him as the villain of the piece for blocking many of his proposals, the Chancellor said: "I am not going to say any more about that."

But Jack Cunningham, the new Cabinet "enforcer", rounded on the former minister yesterday for demanding the job of Social Security Secretary as his price for staying. "That's not the kind of pressure any Prime Minister is going to accept," he told Sky News.

Mr Brown promises a reform of the capital markets to break down barriers to enter-

prise. "We have to face up to the fact that we are not creating enough successful and growing businesses," he says. In a statement that former Labour Chancellors may not have made he adds: "There is not enough enterprise in our country."

"I want to reward risk and help people become more motivated and more determined to succeed. I want to help more people work their way up right from starting in a job to taking responsibility in a job and to climbing the ladder of opportunity. I want to look at where there are disincentives to people moving ahead," Mr Brown emphasises that

Labour is "pro-business and pro-opportunity." But he makes a clear distinction between rewarding the risk-takers in industry and the behaviour of the "fat cats" in the former public utilities.

Under plans announced earlier this week, utilities are being urged to link pay to service standards and regulatory of the utilities are to be advised to take account of the levels of customer service when setting price caps.

Mr Brown makes plain his irritation that the former public monopolies have often become private monopolies and have paid themselves more irrespective of whether they have won a stronger position in the market place.

He puts them in a completely different category from the people in private business who use their skills every day in a competitive environment to win business. "People should be rewarded for the risks they take," he says. "I want to reward the people who take decisions and make a success of what they are doing."

Measures designed to encourage risk takers will build on the changes to capital gains tax in the last Budget which allow people who put their own money into the business as they run to pay only a 10p tax on gains compared with the general 40p rate.

Mr Brown brushed aside suggestions that the reshuffle had severely damaged his powerbase. He said that the changes "rightly" made by Tony Blair had put in place the ministers best able to drive forward the next stage of Labour's programme.

He was all smiles about the appointment of Peter Mandelson, with whom he has had a frosty relationship since the 1994 leadership election. Mr Mandelson would enjoy the challenge of being trade and industry secretary "and I will enjoy working with him."

Brown's new world, page 8  
Leading article, page 19  
William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 18



Brown: "There is not enough enterprise"



On shore in Norfolk yesterday morning, the Queen and the Queen Mother sat side-by-side as they were driven to church at Sandringham

## Working boat could be Duke's Cowes berth

By Deborah Colclough

THE Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal have, for the second year running, been forced to rely on the generosity of the billionaire oilman John Paul Getty II for their week-long stay at Cowes. The problem has arisen since the decommissioning of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

A formidable sight on the outer limits of Cowes harbour, Mr Getty's boat *Tallitha G* is overshadowed in size only by an ugly and functional vessel, bedecked with cranes and machinery - the *Patricia*. And it is that working ship, belonging to Trinity House, the mariner-safety organisation of which Prince Philip is Master, which has been suggested as a

berth for the Royal Family. With a crew of 22, the 283ft ship has six state rooms, a dining room and salon and a large verandah deck.

In the past when *Britannia* was being serviced, the Royal Family used *Patricia*'s identical predecessor, *Patricia I*.

Peter Nicholson, chairman of the Cowes combined clubs and Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron, said it was appalling that the Royal Family had to rely on hospitality. "Prince Philip spent Cowes week aboard the old *Patricia* in the past and, considering he is the Master of Trinity House, and the Master of accommodation on board, why shouldn't he use it?"

The Duke traditionally hosts a dinner for Trinity House staff on

*Patricia* at the beginning of Cowes week to thank mariners who pay boat dues, which fund the organisation. His deputy master, Rear-Admiral Patrick Rowe, who served for three years aboard the Royal Yacht, said *Patricia* could be made available. "Even the smallest royal families have yachts and yet the Royal Family of Great Britain, with our naval heritage, does not. It's a sad reflection."

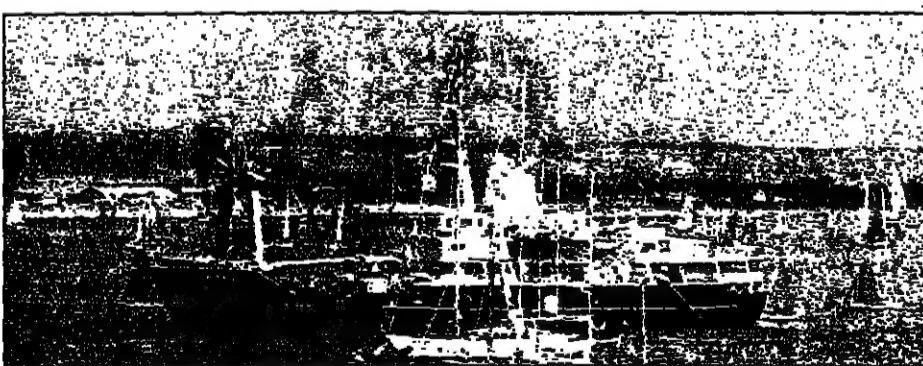
*Patricia*'s imposing cabins are scarcely used since the elder brethren of Trinity House, whose annual duty it is to visit every lighthouse and inspect every buoy and beacon in coastal waters off England and Wales, now use a helicopter or car. The state rooms, containing important works of art, are described as comfortable and

the living quarters appropriate to entertain VIP guests.

However, luxury is not foremost in the minds of Prince Philip or his daughter, both of whom love the prestigious regatta for the sailing, and enjoy visiting friends in and around the harbour. Yesterday Prince Philip was taken by motorboat from *Humble to the Tallitha G*.

Officially the Royal Family has chartered the £15 million, 263ft motor yacht, equipped with the latest in satellite communications equipment and considered the most luxurious of her type, but it is well known that all their hosts gain is the status of accommodating royalty.

Cowes Week, page 29



Trinity House's working ship *Patricia*, moored among smaller vessels off Cowes

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## Top senator urges Clinton to tell all

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A LEADING Republican senator yesterday offered President Clinton a rescue plan to prevent his possible impeachment.

Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, said that if Mr Clinton confessed that he had lied in denying a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, and handled it correctly, it might be enough to persuade the public to show leniency.

Even if the President had lied to protect his wife and daughter from embarrassment, and if there were not "a lot of other problems", that could certainly mean "non-impeachment", Senator Hatch said.

The senator went on to speak of Mr Clinton "throwing himself on the American people" and urged him to "pour your heart out". If he did, he would find that Americans were a forgiving people. Washington was yesterday engulfed in speculation that Mr Clinton was considering an apology and a full explanation of his friendship with Ms Lewinsky while she was a trainee at the White House.

But the White House denied that senior Clinton aides were already floating the mea culpa idea to gauge the reaction of Congress.

Leon Panetta, formerly Mr Clinton's Chief of Staff, recommended that the President should address the nation from the Oval Office after he gives evidence before the grand jury two weeks from today. "He should sit down and stare the American people in the eye. He has to be the loneliest guy in the country right now," Mr Panetta said.

George Stephanopoulos, another former close Clinton confidant, said in *Newsweek* that if the President had lied he should reveal everything and apologise. Otherwise, the rest of his term would be consumed by fallout from prosecutors and the risk that he would have little credibility with the public.

Mr Clinton returned to Washington yesterday after a fund-raising jaunt in which his mood throughout was described as upbeat.

Pour your heart out, page 10  
Leading article, page 19

## Pantini wins a troubled Tour

Marco Pantani, winner of the Tour of Italy in June, rose above the doping scandal and bickering to seal victory in the 85th Tour de France in Paris, ending the most bitter and troubled race in the history of professional cycling. Page 32

## High street wine war

Two of the biggest high street wine chains, Thresher and Victoria Wine, are set to merge, threatening an all-out price war with the big supermarket groups such as Tesco and Sainsbury. Page 4



"Let's pool our resources"

## Ex-MI5 spy fights extradition bid

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE Government is set for a legal battle to extradite David Shayler, the former MI5 officer who was arrested in Paris at the request of the Special Branch.

Mr Shayler's solicitor, John Wadham, said he would vigorously fight the extradition. He said the European convention on extradition, to which both Britain and France were signatories, "generally prevents extradition in cases where it could be shown the alleged offence was political".

Mr Shayler, who has threatened to publish details of spying operations in Britain and abroad, spent last night in a French prison to await a hearing.

The Home Office has 40 days to serve papers for the return of Mr Shayler to Britain where it is planned to charge him under the Official Secrets Act with disclosing information about MI5. He was arrested on Saturday evening when he returned to his hotel off the Boulevard Saint Germain in Paris.

Richard Tomlinson, who formerly worked for MI6, was also held for questioning by

French police, but was released on Saturday night. Five plainclothes officers from the DST had seized him at gunpoint early on Friday afternoon at the Britannia Hotel near the Gare Saint Lazare where he was staying. The officers rugby-tackled Mr Tomlinson, forcing him to the ground. He was then taken to DST headquarters where he was questioned by an investigating magistrate. A spokesman for the French Justice Ministry said the British authorities had not objected to Mr Tomlinson's release.

Isabelle Chauvin, deputy public prosecutor at the Parquet de Paris, said yesterday that there was no time limit on the investigation to be carried out by her department, and that it was likely to take "a matter of months".

Speaking from Paris, Annie Machon, Mr Shayler's girlfriend, said: "French police are being very obstructive. I cannot get through to anyone who can tell me what has happened to him. I am upset and very angry."

Security fears, page 5

TV & RADIO	22-23
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22-24
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
W. REES-MOGG	18
ARTS	16-17
CHESS & BRIDGE	22
COURT & SOCIAL	20
SPORT	23-25
MIND & MATTER	13
FASHION	14
FEATURES	15
LAW REPORT	37

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# Ministers attack Field for 'thinking the unworkable'

Nicholas Watt and Philip Webster on concerted effort against welfare reformer



Field: said that his messages were lost

A WEEK ago, Frank Field was so confident of his position as the Government's free thinker on welfare reform that he was plotting to take Harriet Harman's Cabinet seat when the Prime Minister at last wielded the axe.

Yesterday he was under the full onslaught of Downing Street and senior ministers who jointly turned their fire on him in a concerted attempt to undermine the credibility of the former minister for welfare reform.

One minister said that Mr Field was "wrapped up in his ego" and dismissed his original proposals for his Green Paper on Welfare Reform as "paltry, an embarrassment and unpublishable".

Jack Cunningham, the new Cabinet "enforcer", went on the record to attack Mr Field for demanding to be promoted to Social Security Secretary as his price for remaining in Government. Dr Cunningham told Sky TV: "That's not the kind of pressure any Prime Minister is going to accept."

Alistair Darling, who replaced the sacked Harriet Harman as Social Security Secretary, said diplomatically that it "just wasn't going to be possible" to promote Mr Field to the Cabinet.

Mr Darling then echoed Downing Street's criticisms that Mr Field's theoretical thinking had failed to produce any results. He said: "There does come a time when you've got to move on from these general discussions to what is practically possible."

The ferocity of the attacks on Mr Field shows that ministers fear he could be a highly effective critic of the Government's difficulties in delivering its promised reforms of the welfare state. Mr Field, who Mr Blair had given the task of "thinking the unthinkable" in Government, said in his Commons resignation statement last week that his plans were thwarted by the Chancellor.

Yesterday Mr Field accused Ms Harman of failing to pass on his plans for welfare reform to Downing Street. In an interview with the *Sunday People*, he said: "In my case, it was clearly very easy for the message to get lost on the way in Downing Street."

Mr Field said that civil servants at the Social Security Department and at the Treasury were "brimming" with ideas, but their ideas were blocked by their political masters.

"The whole department simply didn't function for a long period of time," he said. "Nothing happened. In the end I ceased to even put projects forward because nothing ever happened. They'd be run into the sand, disappear into a black hole."

The Tories said that the attacks on Mr Field showed that the Prime Minister's welfare reforms have failed. Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "The attacks by unnamed ministers and the Prime Minister's Office on Frank Field have highlighted the hole at the heart of the Government's welfare reform programme. By claiming that Mr Field's ideas were unrealistic, the Government has admitted that no real welfare reform was taking place."

But Mr Darling insisted that he was determined to reduce "the bills of economic failure". The New Deal welfare-to-work programme had already moved 60,000 young people off the dole, he said.

# Mowlam condemns bomb attack on weekend shoppers

By Audrey Magee  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Northern Ireland Secretary yesterday condemned the terrorists who carried out a "cowardly attack" on innocent shoppers caught in the bombing of a busy market town.

Mo Mowlam said it was a miracle that nobody had been killed when a car packed with 500lb of explosives blasted much of the centre of Banbridge, Co Down on Saturday. Thirty-five people, including two policemen, were injured in the blast which also damaged dozens of buildings.

The explosion happened at 4.30pm, one of the busiest

times in the market town. Republican terrorists had issued two warnings 20 minutes before the bomb went off on Newry Street, leaving police insufficient time to clear the street and nearby Bridge St — Banbridge's main shopping thoroughfare.

"With a warning like that, this was an act of absolute madness," Bill McCreech, the Assistant Chief Constable of the RUC, said.

Many of the injured were women and children who suffered cuts, bruises and ear drum injuries. Two men — a Banbridge policeman and a shopkeeper — were detained in hospital but were not in a

serious condition. Dr Mowlam, after visiting the scene on Saturday night, said: "This was an appalling attack. The damage is extensive and it is a miracle no one was killed."

"Those responsible have no concern for the lives or livelihood of people living in the town... it is only through the speedy and efficient action by the security forces that a tragedy has been averted."

The attack is being blamed on dissident republicans opposed to the IRA ceasefire. It is believed that the bomb, packed into a Vauxhall Cavalier car abandoned outside a shop in Newry Street, was

prepared in the Irish Republic by the dissidents and driven across the border to Banbridge, a mainly Protestant town about 25 miles from the frontier.

It is the second republican attack on Banbridge this year. On January 6, a car bomb was left in the middle of the town; the device was defused before it exploded.

Security sources believe Saturday's attack was the work of the Continuity IRA or the so-called Real IRA, two splinter groups attempting to undermine the IRA ceasefire. It is thought that they have formed an alliance with the Irish National Liberation Army in

recent months, leading to growing concerns about their strength and capability.

Police sources on both sides of the Irish border believe that the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA are sharing information, bomb-making techniques and equipment. It is believed the two groups now have access to large amounts of Semtex explosive, detonators and other bomb-making equipment. They are also forging links with the INLA, an organisation that has shot four people dead since Christmas, including Billy Wright, the Loyalist Volunteer Force leader.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said last week that the dissident republicans were a "very real threat" to the peace in Northern Ireland.

The CIRA, Real IRA and INLA do not qualify for early prison releases because of their refusal to call a ceasefire. The IRA are the only republicans eligible under the legislation passed by Parliament last week.

Dr Mowlam made clear that IRA members would not be allowed early release from prison if it emerges they had any involvement with the Banbridge bombing. The IRA is already being blamed for the murder last month of Roman Catholic man, Andrew Kearney, who died of death after being shot in the legs. Dr Mowlam said that it was not yet clear who had perpetrated the Banbridge bombing.



The scene in Banbridge the day after a car packed with 500lb of explosives exploded

# Dissidents who threaten peace

By Audrey Magee

ONCE dismissed as a paltry group of yesterday's men, republican dissidents are quickly becoming a dangerous force. The Continuity IRA, "Real" IRA and INLA refuse to call a ceasefire or recognise the two called by the IRA since August 1994.

The Continuity IRA set up within months of the first IRA ceasefire, pledging "unremitting hostility to the British forces' occupation in Ireland". The group is linked to Republican Sinn Féin, a political party of purists led Ruairi O Bradaigh — former Sinn Féin president — that split from Sinn Féin in 1986. The terrorists' first success was the Killybegs Hotel on the outskirts of Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, flattened on July 13, 1995 by a car bomb containing 1,250 lb of home made explosives.

Their attacks were mostly confined to car bombs assembled in the Irish Republic, driven over the border and planted in the centre of Protestant towns, including one on September 16, 1997, which destroyed the centre of Markethill, Co Armagh, as the Ulster Unionist Party prepared to rejoin the multi-party talks.

This year on February 20, the centre of Moira, Co Down, was badly damaged by a 500lb car bomb, which was blamed on the Continuity IRA. Three days later, it was also blamed for car bomb in Portadown, Co Armagh.

Numerous other car bomb attacks have been attempted but thwarted by police and army, including one on September 29, 1996, when a 250lb car bomb was defused in centre of Belfast, and one on January 6 this year, when a

500lb car bomb was defused in Banbridge, Co Down.

Attempts by the Continuity IRA, which has less than 50 members, to wreak havoc were bolstered last November with the formation of the Real IRA. It has about 70 members, although its ranks are believed to be growing as more IRA members, many with bomb making expertise, switch allegiance. They issued a statement in May pledging to wage a fresh war on Britain, and said that "a war machine is once again being directed at the British Cabinet".

The Continuity IRA and Real IRA are believed to be sharing information and bomb-making techniques and linking up with the INLA, a dangerous group of less than 30 people which has carried out four murders since December.

# Balcombe Street gang to be free within two years

By Our Ireland Correspondent

THE Balcombe Street gang will be out of prison within two years after the decision by the Irish Government to begin the early release of IRA prisoners.

The four-member gang, responsible for some of the worst IRA atrocities in Britain, are among the 27 prisoners left in the IRA wing of Portlaoise prison, a high security jail 50 miles west of Dublin.

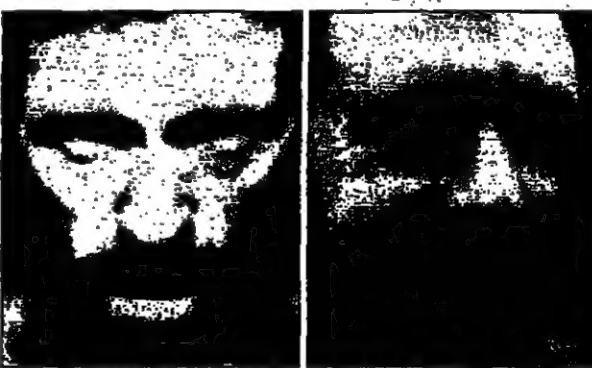
The men will be granted early release following Friday's decision by the Irish Justice Minister to free six IRA prisoners. John O'Donoghue said he was discharging his commitment to early prisoner releases agreed under the Belfast Agreement.

The four members of the Balcombe Street gang — Martin O'Connell, Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan and Hugh Doherty — were serving indefinite life sentences in Britain after carrying out a two-year bombing and assassination campaign in the 1970s that led to many deaths and injuries.

They were responsible for the Guildford and Woolwich bombings which left seven people dead. Their reign of terror ended only after a dramatic six day siege in 1976 when they held a middle-aged couple hostage in a house on Balcombe Street in Marylebone, London. The men, transferred to Portlaoise prison, were released in 1993 for the attempted murder of two police officers in Yorkshire and possession of firearms.

O'Brien, one of the most high profile republican prisoners and not due for release until 2005, had been driving a car with accomplice and convicted IRA assassin Paul Magee when it was stopped by special constable Glen Goodman, near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

O'Brien was convicted of trying to kill two other officers. The two officers were fired on with an AK-47 rifle as they pursued the two terrorists just before daybreak. The IRA men spent four days on the run after the incident before being arrested in Pontefract.



Mages, left, shot PC Goodman dead at point-blank

# PC's father condemns early release

By Stewart Tandler

THE father of a special constable murdered by the IRA yesterday bitterly condemned the early release of a member of the gang that killed him.

Glen Goodman was shot in 1992 at a police checkpoint and yesterday his father Brian attacked the decision to free Michael O'Brien five years after he was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

PC Goodman was shot with an automatic rifle in June 1992 after police stopped a suspicious car near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. Paul Magee, on the run after escaping from the Maze prison, was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for the killing.

O'Brien fired shots at two officers pursued the IRA car after the shooting. He was jailed at the Old Bailey for attempted murder and given two concurrent sentences of 18 years.

Yesterday Mr Goodman, who lives near Tadcaster, said: "As far as I am concerned, although O'Brien didn't pull the trigger of the gun that killed my son he well knew what was going on. In my eyes he's as guilty as Magee. I'm absolutely disgusted. It's a travesty of justice."

"Everybody wants peace, but let's start from now. Crimes already committed need to be punished and murder should be paid for."

# Police scorn pension overhaul

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE leaders yesterday unanimously rejected government plans to overhaul their pension system, accusing ministers of "shameful" proposals that would penalise widows and orphans.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and other ministers are anxious to reform the pension scheme which relies on the contributions of serving officers and force budgets. The cost of pensions for police and civilian staff has risen from £229 million in 1987-88 to an estimated £821 million in 1997-98.

A Home Office consultation paper earlier this year put forward plans for the retirement age for future recruits to rise from 50 to 55. At the same time the level of

pension would be reduced from two thirds of final salary to half. At present, retiring officers can commute up to a quarter of their pension but this amount would also be reduced.

Yesterday, in a joint statement, associations covering all junior officers, superintendents and chief constables said that the police pension scheme should not be compared to other public-sector pensions because police faced many hazards. The current pension reflected the mental and physical toll of the job.

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "The wholesale rejection of the proposals shows how shameful they are. They seek to destroy not only the

safety net for dedicated officers but the benefits for police widows, widowers and dependent children." Reform and better management of the sickness system would make considerable savings, he said.

Last week Mr Straw made clear yet again his unhappiness at the level of retirements due to ill-health on pension, which are reaching more than 60 per cent of all retirements in some forces. "The decision to reject the pension plans is at least in a series of disputes developing between police and the Government over reforms. Senior officers are already disturbed at budget levels and demands for more efficiency cuts."

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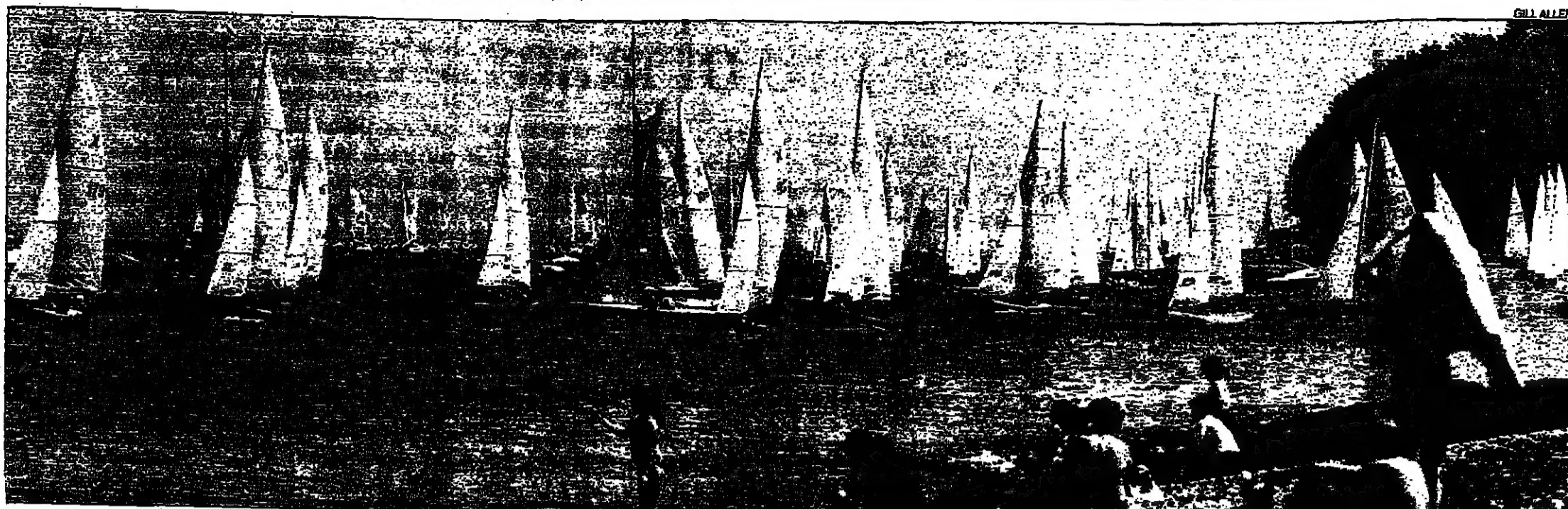


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Holidaymakers enjoy the sun and the sights at the Cowes regatta yesterday. Locals in the tranquil seaside town are less sure about the annual invasion, with many planning their holidays to get away

## Cowes not all plain sailing for the locals

By Deborah Collicutt

THE occasional visitor notices the boats are bigger and the women's clothes racier, but when the crowd of yachters, larger than the population of the Isle of Wight, descends on this tranquil seaside town, for the locals Cowes is simply getting rowdier.

So out of control, in fact, that a number plan their holidays abroad to coincide with the onslaught while managing to cash in on the event by renting out their homes to sailing crews and media teams. "I couldn't bear to stay here," said one resident who let out her Victorian house to a six-man sailing crew for £1,600 a week. "I used to try to go to work and carry on life as normal but it is impossible — they make so much noise you don't get any sleep. Now we just go away and make money out of it."

Her home is 10 minutes from the marina where boats are moored and the crews gather after sailing, sunbath and windswept to eat, drink and tell tall tales of the day's conquests. The figures of alcohol consumption seem to rise yearly: 228,000 pints of beer over eight days and a Pimms drunk every 30 seconds.

While hoteliers and restaurateurs marvel at the inflated prices people are prepared to pay, the police and local authorities groan under the strain of finding extra officers on the beat and clearing 93.25 tonnes of rubbish.

The world's largest sailing regatta, which is said to have started in the late 18th century with a race between fishing craft laden with contraband trying to outrun the Revenue's cutters, has attracted around 840 boats this year, down on the 1997 record of 907.

## RAF pilot turns glider to save his crippled jet

By Warwick Mansell

AN RAF pilot landed safely after his single-engine jet cut out at 20,000ft. Flight Lieutenant Geoff Sheppard was forced to glide his Hawk jet for more than 40 miles, the latter stages in almost zero visibility, after its engine and navigation equipment cut out over Norway.

The 39-year-old airman and his rear seat pilot, Flt Lt Ian Brosch, managed to reach an airfield, where stricken plane came to rest just 50 yards from the end of the runway.

Flt Lt Sheppard's commanding officer has described the pilot as a "bally hero" for bringing the £6 million, 25-year-old plane down safely. Flt Lt Sheppard, who has only recently beaten cancer, explained how he was flying from RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, to an airshow in Bardufoss, Norway, when the Hawk developed oil pressure problems at 40,000ft near Oslo.

He immediately began a descent towards a nearby airfield at Vigra. But at

20,000ft, the single engine cut out completely. He said: "When it died we lost all the electrics and the generator. We had lost all the instruments to help us navigate and the airfield we were heading for had no radar. In Norway you are never far from the mountains and we knew we had to go out over the sea where we could try to get under the cloud. We were just hoping to see a glimpse of the water so that we knew for certain we were over the ocean."

"Thankfully there was a gap in the cloud and I could make out the sea so I dove through it to a height of 800ft, below the cloud. But with the engine having failed we had lost our air conditioning and the canopy had misted over. It was very difficult to see through it. "It was touch and go whether we had built up enough speed and energy to reach the airfield but we got there. The landing was very difficult because it had been raining hard and we were in danger of

overshooting the runway and ending up in the sea. It was a great relief to find we were slowing and coming to a stop."

Flt Lt Sheppard has 10 years' experience training young pilots to fly the Hawk, which is the RAF's training vehicle and is used by the Red Arrows stunt team. He added: "At the time I just felt happy that we had done everything right and brought the plane home. It was the next morning when I looked back at all the things that could have happened that it seemed a bit more dramatic."

The father-of-three had only returned to flying last December after undergoing a bone marrow transplant to treat cancer of the lymph glands. He said: "Of his latest experience: 'I don't know about being a hero but it certainly proves the procedures and training carries you through.' But his commanding officer at 100 Squadron, Leeming, described the pilot as a "bally hero". Wing Commander Gordon Buckley said: "They would have been well within their rights to eject almost until the aircraft stopped. It was a piece of very skilful flying. This was a tremendous example of the Royal Air Force at its best."

David Learmonth, operations and safety editor at *Flight International* magazine and himself a former RAF flying instructor, said in ideal conditions, the descent would have been relatively routine for a pilot of Flt Lt Sheppard's experience. But a low cloud base would have changed the situation completely.

He said: "From their earliest days, RAF pilots have been trained how to bring back to base or the nearest airfield in the event of an engine failure. It consists of a very practised routine where they adjust the way the aeroplane arrives over the airfield and then descend in what is known as a 'lazy spiral'. But pilots usually practised this from a height of 15,000-20,000ft. "In this case, the cloud base at 800ft would have made life very difficult. He would have had very little time to work in and would have needed some luck, great skill and composure."



A "bally hero": Flt Lt Sheppard back on the ground

## All aboard the floating school

By Deborah Collicutt

WITH not a classroom or blackboard in sight for hundreds of miles, most teenagers would hope that living on a boat in the middle of the ocean might mean they could miss school lessons.

But no such luck for sisters Sophie and Suzy Edington as they embark on a 30,000-mile round-the-world voyage with their parents on a boat built in the back garden.

Careful preparations have been made to ensure the girls can continue their education without interruption via the Internet. They will even have a personal tutor back in England and "classmates" waiting for regular updates on their seafaring adventure.

The voyage is in aid of Sightsavers, the British charity which helps to combat blindness in Third-World countries. Stopping off on their way to Sydney, Australia, the Edingtons will travel 200-miles up and down the



Sophie, Peter, Suzy and Sally aboard the Loquax

Gambia river distributing spectacles and encouraging villagers to travel to eye centres for tests and to have cataract operations if necessary.

The girls' parents, Peter, 47, a former computer programmer, and Sally, 43, a physiotherapist, made the difficult decision to take their daughters out of school at a crucial time in their education. But they believe they have found an alternative method of

teaching them which will not hamper their success.

Cranford Community School in Hounslow, west London, provides "remote" teaching using the Internet, satellite telephones and a tutor, whose only job it is to set and mark course work for his pupils.

Peter has modified one of the two double cabins on board the family's boat, Loquax, to accommodate chairs, desks, laptop computers and shelves for their

books. Sophie, 13, and Suzy, 16, will be expected to study every day regardless of where in the world they happen to be.

At Easter next year her classmates will be building a web site as part of their Information Technology studies. Sophie will also be expected to create one of her own and send news and images back to the school of her own experiences.

The family are taking a BBC camera with them on their journey and for part of her French coursework Sophie plans to film a French-speaking community they hope to meet during the voyage.

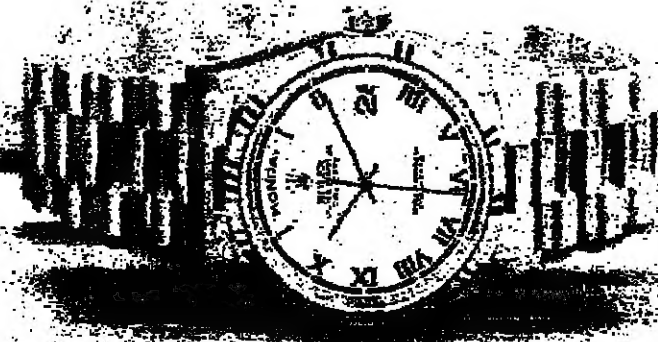
Life on the ocean waves will also be no excuse for not sitting their exams; she will do them via e-mail rather than on more traditional exam papers and the family plan to reach Australia in plenty of time for Suzy to sit her A-Levels in the autumn next year.

## Capturing the imagination of the world was only the beginning.



**PERPETUAL SPIRIT.** Rolex has shared every second of Arnold Palmer's life for the last thirty years. Arnold Palmer's stirring yet accessible style helped make the game of golf what it is today. And although Palmer continues to play, he has also followed his love of the game by directing a variety of related businesses extending from a television network to one of the world's leading golf course design companies.

OYSTER PERPETUAL DAY-DATE



ROLEX of Geneva

## Brothers killed in club

By Stewart Tandler  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE were yesterday waiting for a mother to identify the bodies of her two sons murdered in a late night row in an East London drinking club.

The men died at Churchill's snooker club in Walthamstow after a row erupted among the 30 drinkers left in the club early on Saturday morning. Detectives think one man may have been killed as he went to the aid of his brother in a row and both were left badly stabbed.

Last night police said they were hunting for a man of Asian appearance. One of the dead men is aged 20, the other 31. Both lived near by with their widowed mother, who is in her 60s who also has an older son.

Both the dead men were unemployed and had visited the club before. The suspect had also drunk there in the past. Police are appealing for witnesses.

## Palace to cut costs by sharing plane

By Nicholas Watt, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to share a new aircraft with the Queen which will replace the ageing RAF VC10 which has flown every Prime Minister around the world since the late 1960s.

Buckingham Palace suggested the idea of a shared plane to Downing Street as a way of keeping down the exorbitant costs of flying the Queen and the Prime Minister on official visits.

A Downing Street spokesman yesterday denied reports that Mr Blair had vetoed an idea from the Palace of acquiring a 19-seater Gulfstream jet in favour of a large Airbus A340.

The spokesman said: "A number of proposals have been put forward by Buckingham Palace but no response has yet been made. The matter is still being considered."

Buckingham Palace said that discussions were at an early stage. "With air travel the best value for money is if

there is some shared use."

The replacement of the RAF VC10 will come as a relief to officials and journalists who have had to endure the cramped, noisy and hot conditions on board the plane which first came into service in 1967. Margaret Thatcher always insisted on using the plane, but John Major loathed the VC10, particularly its basic air-conditioning system, and frequently chartered other planes for his official overseas trips, including Concorde and a Boeing 747. Mr Blair flew to Washington earlier this year on Concorde.

The RAF VC10 used by the Prime Minister is one of 13 maintained by the RAF, but the only one equipped for VIPs. It is not part of the Queen's Flight, but has been used by the Queen and was used by the Princess Royal earlier this year.

Versaille Blair, page 9



هذه من الاصل

## Museum buys café society wall of fame

By Darya Alberge  
arts correspondent  
WALL panels from a high-society restaurant bearing the autographs of more than a thousand celebrities, including the composers Puccini, Tchaikovsky and Gershwin, have been acquired by the Museum of London.

Actors, composers, singers and writers left their mark on the walls of Paganini's Italian-Swiss restaurant in Great Portland Street, London, from 1874 until it was bombed in 1940. Some just autographed a panel; others added drawings and even musical notation.

The museum has bought five of the panels from the family of the original owners and is borrowing a further seven for an exhibition that will reunite them for the first time in a re-creation of the restaurant.

Simon Thurley, the museum's director, said: "The panels evoke the romance and richness of life in the capital in this period, including the *fin de siècle*. It is again the *fin de siècle*, so it's topical."

The great tenor Enrico Caruso scribbled several self-portraits, including one of himself as Don José in *Carmen*. Tchaikovsky jotted



Paganini's was the haunt of royalty and international names from the arts from 1874 until it was bombed in 1940

down a few bars from his Fourth Symphony just days after its British premiere, and Gershwin left behind a musical quote from *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Others who left proof of their visit were the composer Richard Strauss; the actress

Sarah Bernhardt; Maurice Chevalier, the Parisian boulevardier and star of films such as *Gigi*; the writer H.G. Wells; and the conductor Toscanini.

Dr Thurley said that although the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward

VII, was a regular visitor to the restaurant with his mistress, Lillie Langtry, "they never left their signatures together at Paganini's". The Prince once signed a piece of paper that was later confiscated by a royal aide and Langtry's signature appeared

on a panel which is now lost.

Paganini's was among numerous Italian-Swiss restaurants which grew up around London from the 1840s. They were run by immigrant families from Ticino, in southern Switzerland. Some, such as

the lavish Monaco's in Piccadilly, were elegant and grand with suites of dining-rooms and orchestras to entertain diners; others were modest coffee-shops.

"They soon established themselves as a feature of London social life and revolutionised the eating habits of middle-class Londoners," Dr Thurley said.

Karen Fielder, assistant curator in the museum's department of later London history, said that the owners of Paganini's had failed to get planning permission to replace it after the bombing.

The room that bore the signed panels was reserved for the exclusive use of celebrities. It was little larger than 10ft square, and Paganini's owner had the power to say whether someone was sufficiently famous to dine there. People knew they had arrived when they were allowed in and they made a point of leaving their signatures. "It was the thing to do," she said.

The panels are made of linoleum, frequently used during the late 19th century to cover walls, and will be displayed at the *Walls of Fame* exhibition at the Museum of London from August 21 until October 4.



Caruso, Tchaikovsky and Nijinsky all left their mark

## Price war as drink shops aim to mix it

By JON ASHWORTH

TWO of the UK's biggest high street wine chains, Thresher and Victoria Wine, are set to merge, threatening an all-out price war with big supermarket groups including Tesco and Sainsbury's.

The merger would involve 3,000 branches and annual sales of more than £1.6 billion. Wine buffs would reap the benefits in a host of discounts and special offers, although the deal must first pass the scrutiny of competition regulators.

Thresher, owned by Whitbread, trades under different names according to geographic area, with Wine Rack reserved for upmarket climates. It also includes Bottoms Up, Drinks Cabin and Hutton's convenience stores. Victoria Wine, owned by Allied Domecq, includes Cellars, Haddows and Firkin off-licences.

Tesco is Britain's biggest wine retailer, followed closely by Sainsbury's, but Thresher-Victoria Wine would easily slip into pole position. Thresher has 7.9 per cent of the UK market, and Victoria Wine has 7.1 per cent, according to Verdict, the retail analyst. Tesco has 13.9 per cent, Sainsbury 12 per cent and Safeway 9.1 per cent.

Price-cutting could follow, particularly at the supermarkets, which have the advantage of higher volumes and a captive audience. Consumers stuck up with alcohol as part of the weekly shop. Richard Hyman, chairman of Verdict, said: "The supermarkets are responsible to an overwhelming degree for the variety and size of the wine market in Britain. They have taken the mystique out of buying wine."

"The specialist off-licence sector has a long history of consolidation - lots and lots of mergers as food retailers become better and better at selling alcohol. We tend to keep stocks of alcohol as we keep stocks of food. The specialist off-licences have been

struggling for the last ten to 15 years to match the scale of the food retailers. They're having to run faster to stand still with every passing year."

Britons spend more than £4.5 billion on wine a year, making us Europe's biggest wine-consuming nation after France. Consumption has risen 500 per cent since the early 1960s. French, German and Italian wines are most popular, although there is a growing interest in "New World" wines from Chile, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and America.

While sales of wine elsewhere in Europe are falling, consumers in Britain are drinking more wine and pay higher prices. However, margins in the wine business are thin, making it difficult for smaller retailers to turn a profit. Peter Dominic (now part of Thresher) and Westminster Wine are among off-licence names to have disappeared from the High Street in recent years.

Victoria Wine/Thresher's only big non-supermarket competitor will be Parisa, owner of Cellar 5, which was formed two years ago as a buy-out of Greenall's off-licence chain. Parisa has been tipped as possible buyer of either Victoria Wine or Thresher. Parisa has shown the way forward for the industry by launching Boozie Buster, a discount chain designed to undercut Sainsbury and Tesco.

The merged business would control more than a third of Britain's High Street off-licences, making a monopolies reference likely. The companies would seek to use their increased buying power to negotiate special deals from brewers and wine growers. Whitbread and Allied Domecq are understood to have been discussing a deal for several months. A formal announcement to the Stock Exchange confirming the talks is expected today.

## A-level pupils may get wrong results

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

HUNDREDS of schools are to doublecheck their pupils' A-level results after a persistent fault in the computer system of a leading examination board has raised fears that the wrong results may be sent to thousands of candidates.

Schools are joining forces with teaching unions and government curriculum advisers to try to rectify the error and ensure pupils receive the correct marks when the results are issued on August 20.

Signs of an impending crisis at the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate appeared in May, when many schools did not receive confir-

mation that candidates would sit exams they had applied for. Papers did not appear on examination days and the computer failed to send schools the packages in which A-level papers are forwarded to the board's markers.

Schools are now worried that the computer malfunction will affect the processing of results. Dr Ron McLone, the Chief Executive of the Oxford and Cambridge Examination and Assessment Council, insisted he was completely confident pupils would receive the correct results despite the problems experienced with the new system.

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# Palace visitors to see Queen in a new light

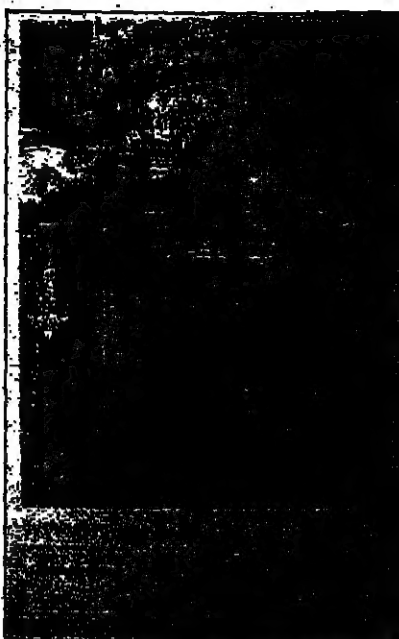
By ALAN HAMILTON

VISITORS may not be able to see the Queen in Buckingham Palace when it opens its doors to the public on Thursday, but they will be able to buy a video which shows her at work there.

The gift shop has updated a £10 video showing 18 staircases to include footage of the Queen holding an investiture in the Picture Gallery, entertaining European summit leaders in the State dining room, and hosting a reception for young achievers in the ballroom. The move is an attempt to show that the Palace is not Versailles, but the headquarters of a working monarchy.

It comes as the Palace allows newspaper and television cameramen greater access to the Queen conducting official functions. The artist Alison Pullen was allowed access to the state apartments to paint the Throne Room for a London Underground poster, which will appear at Tube stations later this week.

This year is the sixth in succession that the Palace has opened to the public, and the gift shop is expected to be the star attraction, as in previous years. There are several additions to the range that stretches from a £2 chocolate bar to a limited edition Pieta Dura carriage clock for £495. Soaps and toiletries are included for the first time, from £6 to £7.50, and there is a new bone-china teacup and saucer set at £65, bearing designs from a



The poster will appear this week

17th-century Boulle cabinet in the Green Drawing Room.

The shop is also helping family causes; another video on sale is Prince Edward's documentary for ITV on the restoration of Windsor Castle, which the profits from

the Palace opening have largely funded. Seekers after the unusual may care to part with £395 for a sterling silver visiting card case, based on an original by Nathaniel Mills which belonged to Queen Mary.

Admissions and profits fell last year, a result of the Palace being closed for a week after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Admissions were down to 313,000 compared with 397,000 the previous year, and souvenir shop sales fell from just over £1 million to £666,000.

But the Palace expects receipts to be back to normal this season, not least because of a 50p increase in the admission price to £9.50. Numbers admitted, however, are being reduced from 7,000 a day to about 5,500 a day. "We found that, in the very hot summers we have had in recent years, the state apartments could get uncomfortably stuffy and airless with so many people in them at one time," a spokesman said.

"It's beginning to look as though reducing the numbers because of the weather may be unnecessary this year, but you never know."

The Palace will be open from August 6 to October 4. Staff will decide in 2000 whether it should close for essential building maintenance. Now that the restoration of Windsor Castle is complete, profits will go to help to maintain and conserve the Royal Collection of paintings, drawings and photographs, the largest assembly of art in the world.

## Irvine 'window-dressing' attacked

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE opening of the Lord Chancellor's expensively refurbished Westminster apartments to the public has been exposed as mere window-dressing, critics claimed after it emerged that would-be visitors will not be able to see them until late next year.

The news has added fuel to the fire of those who criticised Lord Irvine of Lairg for spending £650,000 of public money

on renovations and for borrowing many works of art from public museums and galleries. The Government's defence was that the historic apartments would be accessible to the public.

But the booking office has now confirmed that it will not be possible to see them until "the latter part of 1999 at the earliest." "We have been fully booked since May," an employee said, noting that she had had one cancellation for September. The apartments,

which are free to visitors, are open two mornings a week.

Duncan Macmillan, of the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh, had said Lord Irvine's selection of so many works from the National Galleries of Scotland was high-handed. Hearing the latest news, he said: "Surprise, surprise," opening the apartments had been "no more than window-dressing from the start".

The art world had generally felt that the furore over his borrowing the paintings was

unfortunate because works were at last to see the light of day. But hearing of the difficulties of visiting them, one museum source said: "You do wonder who will get a chance to see these objects."

A government spokesman said that some 440 people had visited the apartments since they opened in May, excluding those attending receptions. Twelve extra tours would be arranged during Parliament's summer recess, but numbers had to be limited to 20 a tour.



Alison Pullen was allowed to paint the Throne Room for a London Underground poster

## Birthday starts early for Queen Mother

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who will be 98 tomorrow, went on a 20-minute walkabout outside Sandringham church yesterday to collect flowers, presents and cards.

Her golf buggy was on hand to take her round the crowd but when the Queen suggested she ride in it, the Queen Mother said: "No, I'm going to walk."

A crowd of 400 gathered in the rain to see the Queen and Queen Mother when they attended morning service. Forty children queued to present bouquets to the Queen Mother but two-year-old Zachary McCarthy-Fox, from Worthing, refused to hand over his flowers and gaily waved her goodbye with them still in his hands.

PC Michael Pollard, 54, was presented to the Queen Mother as this was his last day at Sandringham after 18 years' service. "It was an honour after so many years to actually meet her," he said.

The Queen Mother will celebrate her birthday tomorrow at a lunch with Prince William, Prince Harry, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and other relatives. She is expected to greet well-wishers outside Clarence House and the Band of the Welsh Guards will play *Happy Birthday*. Afterwards she is expected to travel to Balmoral for the Royal Family's traditional summer holiday. The journey will be by air because of the decommissioning of Britannia.

## Fears that led to rogue MI5 officer's arrest

GOVERNMENT fears that highly damaging secret material was about to be disclosed by a former MI5 agent and an ex-MI6 officer may have prompted their arrest by French secret police.

According to *The Sunday Times*, David Shayler was about to make further revelations concerning Libya. Newspapers and broadcasting organisations are bound by a High Court injunction that prohibits publication of any material originating from Mr Shayler that is not already in the public domain.

Last week, in the third edition of its Security Service booklet, MI5 denied that it was ever involved in assassination plots. Before making this statement, archivists at MI5 searched all records to make sure there was no evidence of any operation that resulted in an unlawful killing. No such evidence was found, according to security sources.

There was no official comment yesterday on the *Sunday Times* article, but previous allegations made by Mr Shayler have been described as mistaken or misinterpreted.

Government, police and security sources insisted that the timing of Mr Shayler's arrest on Saturday evening was a coincidence and that the action was taken because of the decision by the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him under the Official Secrets Act. Mr Morris decided it was "in the public interest" to prosecute Mr Shayler after a Special Branch investigation.

There was, however, a flurry of legal exchanges between government lawyers and newspapers over the weekend when it became clear that further revelations were about to be made. Mr Shayler had

**Michael Evans  
and Stewart  
Tendler on  
background to  
hotel swoop by  
secret police**

gone to Paris from his farmhouse in the French countryside to be interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast With Frost*. He was arrested in the foyer of his hotel and taken him to the Ministry of Interior on the basis of a warrant from a French judge.

Staff at the Golden Tulip Hotel, on Rue Saint Benoit, said that Mr Shayler appeared startled and then angry as the five plain-clothes officers from the DST surrounded him, then handcuffed him before leading him away.

Annie Machon, Mr Shayler's girlfriend, remained in the hotel until 2am when she checked out in the company of a reporter from a *Sunday* tabloid. Hotel staff said that she seemed nervous and left no forwarding address.

Her boyfriend was taken to DST headquarters where he was held for several hours before being transferred to the Palais de Justice. Yesterday afternoon he appeared before a magistrate for the confirmation of identity and an official notification of his arrest in response to the British extradition request. He is now being held in the capital's La Santé prison where he is expected to stay until his hearing. It was suggested yesterday that Rich-

ard Tomlinson, the ex-MI6 officer, had gone to Paris to meet with Mr Shayler and Miss Machon, also a former MI5 officer, to collaborate on future revelations about their former employers.

However, at his hotel in Paris last night, Tomlinson, 35, denied that he had plans to reveal more details of his time as an intelligence officer. Tomlinson served nine months in prison after threatening to disclose secrets and was released on licence in April. He was bound by his licence conditions — which restricted his leaving the UK — until July 31.

Yesterday John Wadham, his solicitor, who is director of the civil rights group Liberty, claimed that the French police were angry with Special Branch which had asked them to arrest Tomlinson. "They thought Richard Tomlinson was some sort of terrorist and burst into his room with guns, only to discover they were detaining someone who was accused of breaching his licence conditions."

No further action is to be taken against Tomlinson, who was released by French police when it became clear that he had "done nothing wrong", Mr Wadham said. Tomlinson, who has dual British/New Zealand citizenship, plans to settle in New Zealand. His parents live in Cumbria.

The action against Mr Shayler was taken after several weeks of negotiations between Mr Wadham and government lawyers. Mr Shayler had asked to be granted immunity from prosecution if he returned to Britain. He said he was prepared to co-operate with the authorities. He also pledged to return the expenses he had received from *The Mail on Sunday* for living in exile in France.

However, the government lawyers showed little interest in a deal. They demanded that Mr Shayler reveal all the information that he had given to journalists since leaving the country.

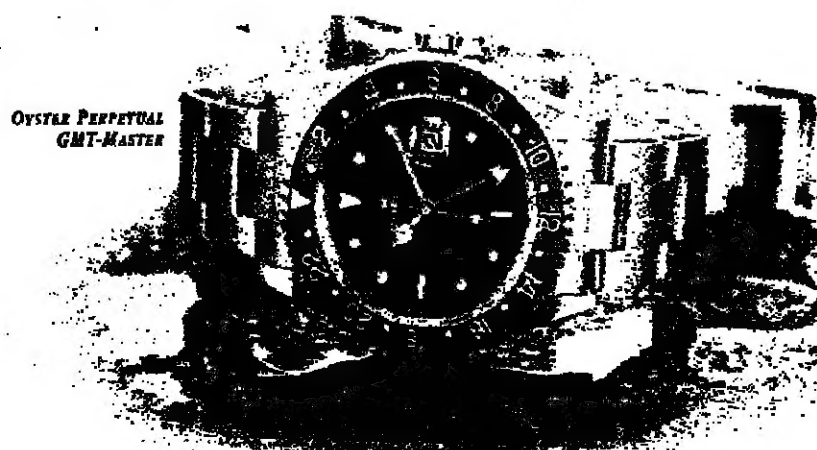
Mr Wadham said that his client was unwilling to tell the police anything that might lead to journalists also being prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act.

Claims in *The Mail on Sunday* yesterday that Mr Shayler's revelations about MI5 had led to the Government launching a review of all the intelligence services was dismissed as "nonsense".

Once the applause had died down, the real competition could begin.



**PERPETUAL SPIRIT.** Rolex has shared every second of Jackie Stewart's life for the last thirty years. After nine winning seasons in World Championship Formula One competition, the last thing Jackie Stewart wanted to do was slow down. Long a successful businessman, he is an automotive consultant on engineering future products. And in 1996 he founded a new Formula One Racing Team.



ROLEX  
of Geneva



...and his girlfriend Annie Machon in Paris

ce war  
drink  
ps aim  
mix it

yet pupils may  
wrong results



## Court of Appeal work to be devolved to regions

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, is to devolve work from the Court of Appeal in London to be heard in the regions. He also intends to expand his title as Lord Chief Justice of England to include Wales. It was "insulting" to the Welsh, he said, "that they should play no part in the title of the Lord Chief Justice".

"The office has always been Lord Chief Justice of England but I would like to give it a Welsh dimension." No Court of Appeal work is handled in Wales, Lord Bingham said he wanted to see if some criminal appeals and judicial review cases could be heard there. It is understood the Lord Chancellor fully supports the change.

Lord Bingham said there were administrative problems in setting up centres to deal with judicial review cases in regions around the country and there was a limited corps of judges expert in this work.

He said that he favoured devolution of some court work such as judicial review cases and criminal appeals to regional centres, where they could be heard by judges rotating out from London. "It would be extremely inefficient and unsatisfactory to attempt to replicate that organisation in half a dozen places around the country."

Having said that, I would greatly welcome a degree of devolution to local centres, provided always one could find the right judges to do the work."

He also gave a clear signal that the new privacy law will not lead to a "new dark age of censorship". Lord Bingham said that the media had no need to fear the development of a privacy law by the judges when the Human Rights Bill is enacted, enshrining the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law.

# Older Oxford colleges beat newcomers in 'supertable'

The Times has devised a fairer way of comparing examination results, reports Victoria Fletcher

OXFORD University's oldest colleges consistently achieve the best results while newer colleges, especially former all-female colleges, lag significantly behind, according to a league table which for the first time has mapped performance over five years in addition to annually.

The "Norrington Supertable", compiled exclusively by *The Times*, shows that Merton's steady flow of excellent results in finals puts it into pole position, just ahead of St John's and Jesus. Meanwhile, Somerville, which was all-female until 1994 and has produced such powerful figures as Lady Thatcher and Indira Gandhi, the assassinated Indian Prime Minister, sits unambiguously at the bottom.

Balliol, founded in 1263, proved its enduring quality this year by bouncing back to 5th position in the Norrington Table after plummeting to 19th position last year. The temporary hiccup, which was dismissed by the college as "fluctuations", is overlooked by the supertable which places it 5th overall.

The Norrington Table has annually ranked colleges according to their finals results since it was conceived by Sir Arthur Norrington, a former President of Trinity College, in a letter to *The Times* in 1962. Escalating controversy over a college "league table" prompted the University, in 1992, to stop publishing college names next to students' results. However, through the work of a resourceful student, the table continued to be produced.

This year, Oxford admitted defeat in its attempts to thwart the table and once again is publishing student names, results and colleges together. A spokeswoman for Oxford said they had realised the Norrington Table would appear despite efforts to suppress it. "The information would appear whatever moves we made. The reason it is so controversial is that sharp swings in a college's results can occur from year to year."

Its position will dip, but this does not reflect the overall performance of that college." Principals of many colleges have also criticised the importance placed on a single year's results as being unrepresentative. However, most of the University elite would admit to enjoying the rivalry the table can ignite at Oxford.

Sir Peter North, Principal of Jesus College which came top of this year's table, was cautious about the success of his students. "I am pleased, but I do not think the table indicates accurately the performance of a college. Only over five years, can a college be truly judged."



Sir Peter North: pleased with his college's success

he said. Therefore this year, the supertable offers a balanced overview of the best and worst academic performers. Three of the oldest colleges, Merton, University and Balliol, are in the top five, while colleges founded in the 19th century, with the exception of Keble, are predominantly towards the bottom of the list.

Surprisingly, one of the most highly regarded of the colleges, New College, is half way down the supertable. David Parteyman, the college bursar, said he was disappointed, but said the reputation of the college rested on its all-round

achievements. "We would not strive to be top at whatever cost and we do not want to distort the type of people we accept into the college. But we should be in the upper third of the list and there is room for improvement. How we improve is another question."

Corpus Christi, which dropped 18 places in this year's Norrington Table, appears also to be a victim of fluctuation, as overall it ranks 8th. Balliol admitted that head was taken of their slip in the league table last year. Andrew Graham, the acting master of Balliol said: "We were conscious of not doing too well last year and tutors are upset when this is reflected in a published table. Therefore I asked every finalist to try one higher, and I think this year it paid off."

Mr Graham added that the tension caused by either a yearly Norrington Table or a supertable was no bad thing. "A degree of competition doesn't hurt anyone. I don't know how many A-level pupils look at these when deciding on a college, but we already want good academic students and this table will only encourage that."

Robert Gliddie, the Senior Tutor of Merton, put the success of the best college down to its small size and ethos of scholarship. "I am pleased we have topped the table. We have put a lot of time into pastoral care at Merton. Academics are often torn between research and teaching, but Merton provides a lot of time for good tutorial supervision. We have fewer cultural problems than other colleges, are smaller, happier and well-integrated," he said.

This year, a record 20.75 per cent of all Oxford finalists achieved first-class degrees, a five per cent increase on last year. The lower academic performance of the former all-female colleges was matched by a split in the class of degrees achieved by the sexes. While 24.3 per cent of men gained a first, only 15.5 per cent of women achieved the top class.

THE NORRINGTON SUPER TABLE 1994-98

College	Total Candidates	Candidates	Firsts	Max points %
1 Merton	572	1290	2350	88.70
2 St John's	521	1177	2250	88.21
3 Jesus	444	1066	2225	87.47
4 University	559	1245	2225	86.15
5 Balliol	522	1245	2215	86.03
6 Magdalen	548	1200	2200	85.83
7 Wadham	600	1234	2100	84.46
8 Corpus Christi	886	1551	2050	84.23
9 Queen's	425	1043	2025	84.14
10 Exeter	443	1043	2015	83.70
11 Christ Church	606	1233	2000	83.59
12 Keble	532	1227	1980	83.54
13 New	580	1227	1950	82.96
14 Hertford	520	1227	1950	82.82
15 Lincoln	390	1227	1950	82.82
16 L. Margaret Hall	557	1227	1950	82.69
17 St Edmund Hall	574	1227	1950	81.33
18 Oriel	403	1227	1915	81.48
19 Trinity	392	1227	1900	81.38
20 Brasenose	511	1227	1850	81.17
21 Worcester	512	1227	1850	80.78
22 Pembroke	501	1227	1850	80.04
23 St Peter's	470	1227	1850	80.28
24 St Catherine's	642	1227	1820	80.07
25 St Anne's	646	1227	1820	80.07
26 St Hugh's	550	1227	1750	78.10
27 St Hilda's	546	1227	1750	78.10
28 Somerville	7505	1420	2525	86.24

THE 1998 NORRINGTON TABLE

Position	College	Degrees			Total	% of pass	Students	Max points
		1	2	3				
1 (4)	Jesus	29	55	10	94	84.0%		
2 (1)	Merton	25	39	9	74	83.8%		
3 (5)	Wadham	37	66	14	117	83.6%		
4 (2)	St John's	35	51	14	102	83.3%		
5 (19)	Balliol	40	60	18	121	82.9%		
6 (3)	University	35	71	16	122	82.1%		
7 (13)	Queen's	25	49	12	88	82.0%		
8 (12)	St Edmund Hall	28	78	12	118	81.2%		
9 (6)	Keble	25	78	17	120	80.7%		
10 (27)	Worcester	18	67	15	100	80.0%		
11 (11)	Magdalen	32	66	22	120	80.0%		
12 (20)	Christ Church	27	72	22	121	80.2%		
13 (14)	Lady Margaret Hall	25	68	20	113	79.3%		
14 (9)	New College	24	30	24	78	79.5%		
15 (24)	Mansfield	9	31	7	47	79.2%		
16 (10)	Oriel	20	48	15	83	79.1%		
17 (18)	Lincoln	17	51	17	85	79.1%		
18 (15)	Exeter	18	54	13	85	78.9%		
19 (16)	Brasenose	18	71	22	111	78.8%		
20 (26)	St Peter's	18	55	25	98	78.1%		
21 (23)	Pembroke	12	31	28	71	77.8%		
22 (21)	St Anne's	26	64	32	122	77.8%		
23 (17)	Hertford	15	64	25	104	77.2%		
24 (7)	Corpus Christi	7	38	7	52	77.1%		
25 (8)	Trinity	14	48	17	79	76.9%		
26 (24)	St Hilda's	15	35	25	75	76.9%		
27 (22)	St Hugh's	12	35	25	72	76.9%		
28 (28)	St Catherine's	11	35	25	71	76.9%		
29 (25)	Somerville	11	35	25	71	76.9%		
30 (30)	Harris Manchester	1	10	1	12	76.9%		

Total

Previous positions in brackets

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 100ft cliff plunge kills climber

A climber died after plunging 100ft into the sea from cliffs. David Pearce, 33, from Bowdon, near Altrincham, Cheshire, fell while scaling Elen Tower on South Stack, off Anglesey, with two other climbers.

Mr Pearce was rescued by an RAF helicopter and taken to Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, where he died later from his injuries.

Police said that Mr Pearce's grown-up son was at the scene of the accident but was not believed to have been climbing with his father.

### Open all hours

A report by the Future Foundation predicts that after-hours shopping will be worth £40 billion a year by 2010. Standard opening times for more than half of shops will be from 10pm to 11pm and lucrative business opportunities lie ahead for companies prepared to adapt.

### Baby damages

The parents of an unborn child which died in the womb after a gas fire was wrongly fired in their home have been paid £20,000 by British Gas Services. Helen Rathor, of Bolton, fell ill after the fire, which is believed to have caused carbon-monoxide poisoning, was installed.

### Bee alert

Beekeepers were urged to search the debris at the bottom of hives for signs of parasitic varroa mites, which weaken the insects' natural defences. The British Beekeepers Association, launching National Varroa Week, said that the problem was spreading north, wiping out honey-bee colonies.

### £20 sanwich

Ray Bennett, 50, a mobile-phone executive from Houghton, near Northampton, was given a £20 penalty ticket by a police patrolman for not being in proper control of his car, after he was spotted eating a sandwich while in slow-moving traffic at Newmarket, Suffolk.

## Diphtheria vaccine recall

GPs have been asked to return 40,000 doses of diphtheria vaccine to the Swiss manufacturer after concerns that the batch is past its use-by date (Alexandra Fearn writes).

The Department of Health said that although the Swiss authorities gave the drug a four-year shelf-life, the accepted maximum in Britain was

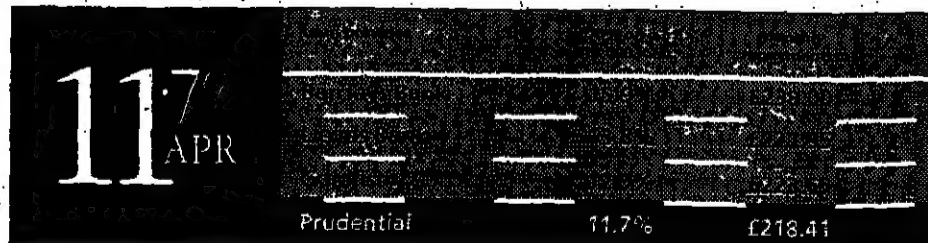
three years. As the batch was now three years old, British officials felt it was advisable to recall remaining doses.

A spokeswoman described the recall as a "precautionary measure" and said anyone vaccinated from the batch would be protected from the disease. Diphtheria is a risk in parts of Asia and Africa.

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\*Source: Moneyfacts July 1998. Typical Example: If you borrow £10,000 over 24 months, your total monthly repayment would be £466.59. The total amount repayable would be £71,997.60 APR 11.7%. The maximum repayment period for holiday advances is 24 months. A written quotation is available on request by writing to Prudential Banking. Credit is available to anyone aged 18 to 65 years, subject to status and conditions. The loan must be taken out within one month of application. Repayments must be made by Direct Debit. Please do not enter into a loan agreement unless you can afford the repayments. For your protection telephone calls may be recorded or monitored. Prudential Banking plc is registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: 12, Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2BN. Registered Number: 2995842.

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# A sunless summer? It's the weather's fault

**Nigel Hawkes**  
on why experts  
dismiss fears of  
climate change  
and refuse to  
blame El Nino

AS CLOUDS scud across the sky, Britons want more than a sight of the Sun. They want explanations.

Why has northern Europe endured a summer of gloom, while Spain, Greece, and Italy bask in the sun? Is there a link between record floods in China and New Zealand, and an intense heatwave and drought in the southern United States? Surely the climatologists and weather forecasters, with their banks of supercomputers, can come up with something better than a shrug of the shoulders?

July in England and Wales was exceptional in only one way — the lack of sunshine. Figures from the Meteorological Office show that it averaged 4.91 hours a day, compared with the long-term average of 5.96. Temperatures were down, but not much — 15.7C (60.2F) against an average of 16.1C (61F).

Rainfall, Scotland excluded, was actually lower than average, at 52.8mm compared with 62mm. In Scotland, however, the heavens opened to give the fourth wettest July on record. In global terms, these figures are the small change of meteorology, with nothing in any way remarkable about them. Their explanation does not lie in global warming, El Nino, or even La Nina, the much-touted changes in the Pacific which affect the countries around its rim.

In other words, the experts says, our sunless summer is not a matter of climate. It's just the weather.

The same applies to the exceptional heat of southern Europe, and for much the same reason, the lack of a high pressure area north of the Azores. Without that "blocking high", weather in Britain and the rest of northern Europe is determined by strong westerlies crossing the Atlantic, carrying a series of depressions with them. Hence the scudding clouds.

The corollary of low pressures to the north is usually high pressures further south,



From blazing Florida to the flooded Yangtze, the world has suffered a year of extremes of weather. But in Europe, it is normal for the Mediterranean nations to swelter while Britain remains in shadow

which has been the case this summer. Poor summers in Britain are often, therefore, extremely hot summers further south. Examples are 1993, 1988 and 1974; this year seems certain to be added to the list.

Met Office forecasters say we cannot blame El Nino, the sudden rise in sea surface temperatures in the Pacific which occurred in March 1997. "No direct link has been established between El Nino and weather in Britain," a spokesman says firmly.

El Nino probably can be blamed for the intense heat in Texas and the southern states which set new records during July. Although the current El Nino was declared dead in the late spring, the unusual warmth of tropical waters has lingered in the eastern Pacific, creating a summer drought in the southwest US.

Although the US National Weather Service expects the warm water to go in the next two to five weeks, Texas may not be out of trouble. While El Nino is characterised by higher than average sea-surface temperature, it will be followed by its opposite, La Nina, when sea temperatures fall below normal.

Strong signs of this were detected along a 3,000-mile sector of the Equator between early May and early June, when sea temperatures fell four times quicker than they did at the time of the last La Nina in 1988-89. The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction in La Jolla,

California, expects sea-surface temperatures off the West Coast to be "moderately to substantially below normal" by this autumn.

This could prolong the Texas drought, since cooler waters normally bring winter warmth and dryness along with them. "If we don't get more normal precipitation in the late summer and early fall, we're looking at a large drought," Anthony Barnston of the US Weather Service says.

America could also be due for an unusually violent hurricane season. Generally, El Nino years bring fewer hurricanes, La Nina years more. This is because weak winds in the tropical Atlantic allow hurricanes to form without their tops being blown off, as happens in El Nino years.

Two recent La Nina years, 1988-89 and 1995-96, were among the most active periods for hurricanes.

The chances of two or more hurricanes hitting America during an El Nino year is about 28 per cent, James O'Brien of Florida State University says, but during a La Nina year it is 66 per cent.

El Nino has been blamed for the floods in China, though local experts are more inclined to blame local, man-made changes such as deforestation and the neglect of flood-control measures. There have been huge amounts of rain, but the risk of floods, the local press asserts, is more the result of corrupt officials who

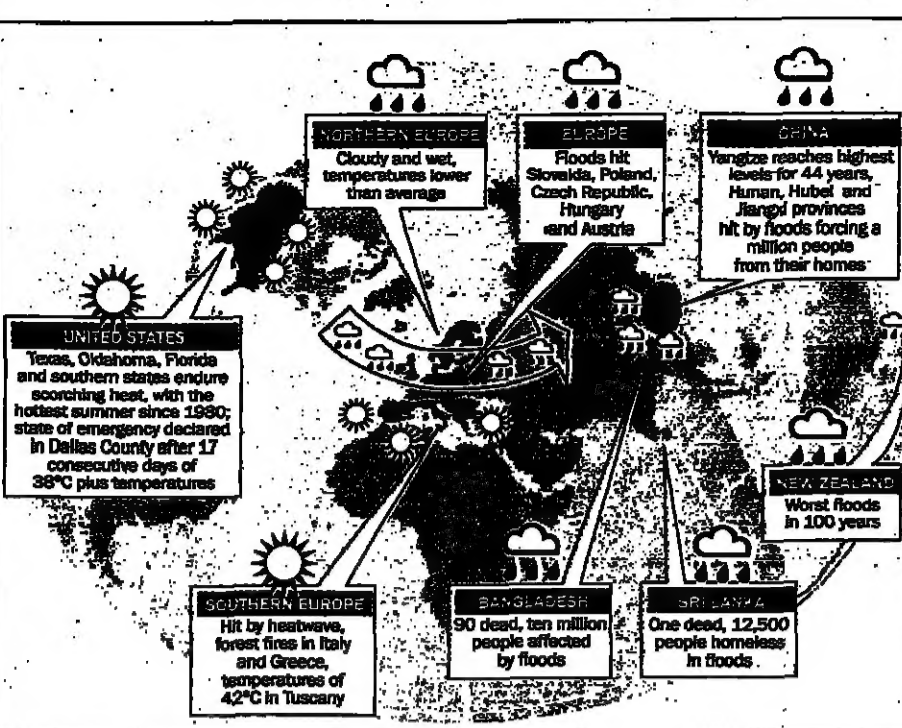
misappropriated flood-control funds.

Those who profess to see the hand of man in everything that goes wrong in the world, led by US Vice-President Al Gore, assert that the root cause of the present disasters is global warming. Record-setting rains in the Midwest, droughts in Florida, and soaring temperatures in Texas are consistent, Gore says, with predictions that global warming will bring more extreme weather events.

Although each single event cannot be attributed to global warming, he said last month, "what we've seen has long since left the boundaries of the normal and the expected". Temperature records show that eight out of the past ten years have been the hottest on record, at least as measured from the ground — satellite-based temperatures fail to

confirm the trend. The case is unprovable, one way or the other. Climate models are far too unsophisticated to predict the exact location of extreme weather events. It is all they can do to produce a plausible prediction of average temperatures.

A more extreme view is that the intensity of the El Nino event is itself the result of global warming. But the Australian climatologist Rob Allan, who spent eight months at the Met Office's Hadley Centre studying climatic records, doubts this. He says: "We know that El Nino tends to occur every two to seven years. I have found two longer climatic fluctuations linked with El Nino. One occurs every 11 to 13 years, the other every 15 to 20 years. These climatic fluctuations have probably occurred for thousands of years."



## BLOWING HOT AND COLD IN DEADLY JULY

JULY was a month when unenviable weather records were set around the world. While Britain merely had cause to grumble at a dull summer, others died in floods and heatwaves (Nigel Hawkes writes).

From Florida through the southern states to Texas and north to Colorado, two months of incessant heat and drought have left more than 100 dead. In Dallas, Texas, and Oklahoma City, temperatures have exceeded 38C (100F) day after day, with no sign of rain.

China, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and five countries in central Europe suffered the other extreme, with heavy rain and flooding. In central New Zealand

the worst floods in a century forced farmers to use jet skis and kayaks to herd half-submerged cattle.

In China, the Yangtze rose to its highest level in 44 years, as officials called for a "do or die" effort to protect millions living along the river. Nearly five million people from five provinces were mobilised to ensure embankments held firm.

In the three worst-hit provinces, Hunan, Hubei and Jiangxi, more than a million people have been forced from their homes, 29 towns have been flooded, three railways cut off and 450,000 houses destroyed.

This year flooding has killed more than 1,250 people. The high levels on

the Yangtze have also threatened the Three Gorges dam, at a critical stage of construction. The Red Cross has appealed for emergency aid for hundreds of thousands of families in need of food and shelter. "The flooding is the worst in living memory in many areas," it said.

Bangladesh put its Army on full alert at the end of the month as floods hit two thirds of the country. More than 90 died and ten million were affected by the floods.

Five central European countries — Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria and Poland — have also suffered floods. In eastern Slovakia more than 100 were feared dead, while seven died in Poland.

## Long-range forecasting presents tough challenge

TRADITIONAL weather forecasts have improved considerably over the past 25 years. Today's three-day forecasts by the Met Office are as accurate as the 24-hour forecasts of the early 1970s.

But seasonal forecasting is a tougher challenge. It depends on longer-term factors than the weather — sea-surface temperatures for example — looked at in combination with mathematical models of the atmosphere.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, in Reading, has been working on seasonal forecasts for the past three years. Although it does not normally publish its forecasts, in March the centre did predict that spring would be mild and early summer warm in Europe. It claimed in *Nature* magazine that its results, when compared to observations, "are encouraging for the prospects for seasonal forecasting".

The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction in La Jolla, California, is bolder. It publishes seasonal forecasts for all regions of the

Accuracy relies  
on explaining  
sea temperature  
changes, writes  
**Nigel Hawkes**

world on the Internet. An examination of some recent predictions by the institute shows it has scored some successes.

It accurately predicted a 45 per cent chance of above-average temperatures in certain US regions this July, and its temperature and rainfall predictions for Europe this summer have also been reasonably accurate.

The institute stresses that its climate outlooks are experimental and local differences should be expected. Until variations in the Atlantic's surface temperature are as well understood as the Pacific's, more accurate seasonal predictions for Europe are unlikely.

□ The sun looks set to make a welcome return with the first spell of sunshine in the UK expected within days. From Tuesday to Thursday the sun should shine in southern areas, with temperatures rising to 29C (84F). In the North the unsettled weather will continue with outbreaks of rain.

Northern France will experience thunderstorms over the next day or two, a spokesman from the Met Office said. Storms will move east into the Baltic states, to be replaced by sunny weather.

Showers in Southern France will also give way to warmer, sunnier weather by Thursday with temperatures expected to be close to 30C (86F).

Italy, experiencing temperatures of around 35C (95F), is expected to cool slightly but will have little or no rain over the coming days. Spain is expected to become warmer over the next week, from 25C (77F) to over 30C (86F), but with increasing risk of thunderstorms. Greece is sunny and temperatures of up to 38C (100F) are likely to continue.

Forecast, page 22

## Village mourns boy, 12, killed by lightning bolt

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

VILLAGERS were mourning yesterday for a 12-year-old boy hit by a bolt of lightning while playing with two friends. Daniel Foster's father, Len, held hands with a group of children at the recreation ground, in Chalgrave, Oxfordshire, where he was killed, to say prayers for his son.

As torrential storms swept through the county on Saturday afternoon, he was struck by lightning and suffered a heart attack. Daniel, who attended Wheatley Park School, had been playing beside the tennis courts. Two paramedic crews were sent to the scene but Daniel died a few hours

later in hospital. His friends, who are also aged 12, were taken to hospital suffering from shock and minor injuries.

The Rev Ian Cohen of the parish church of St Mary paid tribute to Daniel during his Sunday service. Afterwards, he said: "I have been to see his family. They are absolutely devastated. He was an intelligent, happy boy who was doing well at school and got a good school report. Everybody is stunned. They feel very deeply for his family."

Yesterday his father Len, a carpenter, his mother Linda, a library assistant, and older

brother James were too upset to talk about the accident.

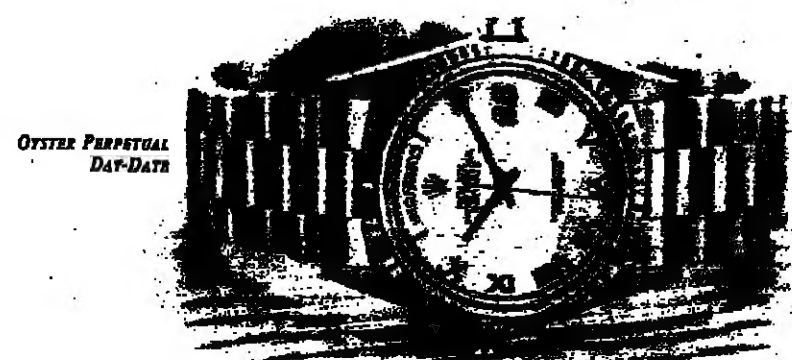
But Pam Jeffries, who lives in the village, said: "It was a very bad storm. It must have been one of the worst we have ever. I was looking out of my bedroom window and I saw three children in the recreation park. I thought it was silly of them hanging around in the pouring rain. Then the rain eased off and a bolt of lightning struck the ground."

"The three kids fell to the floor, followed by a huge clap of thunder. Two on the outside got up and ran. The middle boy was lying on the floor."

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# Versatile Blair suits himself on foreign travels

Grace Bradberry and Richard Owen get a dressing-down



Arriving for his holiday in Italy, the Prime Minister had discarded the jacket of his light summer suit, leading the Italian Prime Minister to copy him in an attempt to be casual

WHAT to wear to fly off on holiday is not a question that concerns most men unduly. There are still a few who are content to leave such preoccupations to their wives.

Not so Tony Blair, whose attention to hand luggage clearly went a lot further than packing a comb. The Prime Minister had clearly anticipated an obstacle course of protocol, physical discomfort and sartorial one-upmanship on his trip to Italy. For his brief flight he had packed what is described in women's magazines as a "capsule wardrobe with the emphasis on 'pieces' that would take him from formal to informal with ease.

To embark, the Prime Minister had picked a light summer suit in a fetching sand colour, but by the time he stepped down onto the tarmac he had already removed the jacket.

Thus he approached the first obstacle in the shape of the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi. Mr Blair looked insouciant in shirt sleeves. His Italian counterpart hurriedly removed his jacket.

And so to the next stage, the meeting with his holiday host, Prince Girolamo Strozzi.

By this stage the shirt had been replaced by a dark blue polo shirt. The suit trousers now revealed their tremendous versatility, looking like chinos. Blair had also slipped on a pair of sandals (how his sons must have cringed).

The prince, meanwhile, was wearing a suit, presumably as a gesture of respect to the British Prime Minister.

Mr Blair had presumably judged that he need not make the same gesture in return.

Mr Blair started out with an enormous sports watch clamped to his wrist, but by the time he arrived at the Strozzi estate his wrist was bare — who's counting the minutes on holiday? There was a theatrical quality to the whole enterprise.

Mr Blair's wife Cherie, meanwhile, wore the same wide-legged pink suit throughout.

Mr Blair, his wife, his mother-in-law, and three children are staying on the prince's 1,200-acre estate at Cussona, in the hills near San Gimignano. The prince and his Russian-born wife Irina met the Blairs at the entrance to the 50-room Renaissance villa and showed them the swimming pool and the tennis courts, both surrounded by screens in case a snooper evades the Italian special police guarding the villa and its grounds.

Yesterday, the Blair and Strozzi families attended Mass at the small church on the estate. The service was conducted by an American priest known as Father Jim who lives in San Gimignano and has presided at services attended by the Blairs over the past two summers when they stayed on the nearby estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, which also has a private chapel.

Estate officials said the Blair children had read the lessons, and Father Jim had regaled the Blairs and the Strozzi — one of Italy's richest and most ancient wine-producing dynasties — with a sermon on "the perils of consumerism". Downing Street officials said the Blairs had then retired to the villa for a "quiet day of swimming".

While in Tuscany over the next two weeks, Mr Blair is expected to meet Lionel Jospin, France's Socialist Prime Minister, and Oskar Lafontaine, the German Social Democratic leader, who are also both staying in Italy.

Tomorrow Neil Kinnock, Mr Blair's predecessor as Labour leader and now the European Commissioner for Transport arrives with his wife Glenys to stay in a rented house near San Gimignano which local residents describe as "distinctly more modest" than the Strozzi villa.

At the Strozzi estate, Mr Blair had changed into a dark blue polo shirt while his wife's attire was unchanged



At the Strozzi estate, Mr Blair had changed into a dark blue polo shirt while his wife's attire was unchanged

The versatile trousers of Mr Blair's suit now looked like chinos?

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# Pour your heart out, Clinton told

WITH his moment of truth approaching, President Clinton was urged yesterday to "pour his heart out" to the American people about the truth of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

If he admitted he had lied to protect his wife and daughter from embarrassment, and there were no other serious problems, Mr Clinton could expect leniency from Congress and could walk away with his head held high to finish his presidency, said Orrin Hatch, a powerful Republican who is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I don't know anyone at the top of the system who wants to see the President hurt," said Mr Hatch, who delivered his impassioned appeal on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

The senator spoke out just two weeks before Mr Clinton is due to give live testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House to grand jurors sitting a mile away in the federal court where Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, has been compiling secret evidence in the Lewinsky case.

Mr Hatch spoke as Mr Clinton came under increasing pressure to admit to the American people that he did have a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

There are persistent reports in Washington, denied by the White House, that senior Clinton aides are already sounding out members of Congress for their reaction to a possible *mea culpa* speech on television, either before or after his unprecedented grand jury appearance.

Mr Hatch assured Mr Clin-

**Powerful Republican says Americans will forgive President if he is frank, writes Ian Brodie in Washington**

ton that he would find Americans were a forgiving people. He said that if the President has not told the truth, as at least 60 per cent of Americans believe, he needs to come forward and explain what happened.

"If the President did lie under oath and did it to protect his wife and daughter, and also doesn't have a lot of other problems, that could certainly result in non-impeachment," Mr Hatch said. Americans would "breathe a sigh of relief". As Mr Hatch put it: "It would go a long way if he would admit it and ask

for some sort of consideration. I think we would bend over backwards to give that consideration."

Mr Hatch said the President would be respected for clearing up any untruths, adding: "I suggest to the President, just tell the truth and I will be there to help." That could be an important offer because Mr Hatch would play an influential role in the decision to pursue any consideration of impeachment in Congress.

But Mr Hatch was careful to explain that his olive branch was limited to the possibility of Mr Clinton committing

perjury to protect his wife and daughter from embarrassment when he denied having a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky during his deposition in Paula Jones's civil suit.

Mr Hatch said it would be more serious if Mr Clinton had committed the felony of telling others to lie under oath. But Mr Starr is reportedly finding that difficult to prove.

Other politicians added their voice to the need for Mr Clinton to give a full accounting of his friendship with Ms Lewinsky. His former chief of staff, Leon Panetta, told the *Los Angeles Times*: "This cup is not going to pass. He's going to have to confront this issue directly."

A new poll strongly suggests that America would forgive Mr Clinton if he admitted making a mistake and was sorry. The poll by *Time* and CNN found that almost 70 per cent believe the Starr investigation could and should end if Mr Clinton apologises.

Even if Mr Clinton did apologise, he would still face legal pitfalls. Ms Jones, for one, could sue to reinstate her lawsuit over her disputed allegation that Mr Clinton exposed himself to her and asked for oral sex.

On Friday, Mr Clinton promised he would testify "completely and truthfully" to the grand jury. Many noted that he did not repeat his adamant denial from last January of having sex with Ms Lewinsky.

In recent days, the case has shifted in Mr Starr's favour. The prosecutor has granted her total immunity and now has a growing body of evidence, including the allegedly



Hillary Clinton, right, putting on a brave face, with the actress Kim Basinger while fund-raising on Saturday



Hatch: 'Congress would be lenient'



Clinton: under pressure to give a full account

semen-stained dress, messages left by Mr Clinton on her answering machine and details of presents they exchanged when she worked as a 21-year-old White House

trainee. Following his Friday statement, Mr Clinton was a picture of happiness, flashing a cheery thumbs-up sign as he flew off to the Hamptons resorts on Long Island. He

urged his staff not to worry. He told reporters accompanying him to have fun over the weekend. Some wondered if the President's upbeat nonchalance indicated that he had

already decided to confess that he had misled the country over his involvement with Ms Lewinsky and was relieved to have the burden off his shoulders.

## US to finance a revival by Saddam's foes

By IAN BRODIE

THE Clinton Administration has held talks with rival Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq over the past month and leaders of two factions have been invited to Washington later this year to help implement the programme. They are Massoud Barzani, of the Kurdish Democratic Party, and Jalal Talabani, of the Popular Union of Kurdistan.

The two have fought each other in the past. "As long as they are prepared to oppose Saddam, we are prepared to work with them," said Martin Indyk, Assistant Secretary of State.

President Clinton praised the two in June for making positive statements on political reconciliation. Republicans on Capitol Hill, who will consider the Administration's plan, were not too pleased about it yesterday. They described it as a "baby step" that might lead to a slightly higher profile for the Iraqi Opposition abroad but of little help inside Iraq.

A Republican Senate aide said the plan was "flawed" because some of the 73 Iraqi opposition groups were not qualified for "American" help had been "penetrated by Baghdad".

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## Israelis in training to fight rapist

JERUSALEM: Women in Tel Aviv will be offered self-defence classes it was announced yesterday as the hunt for a serial rapist in the city continues (Ross Dunn writes).

Combat experts will teach students basic moves to aid an escape. The cost will mostly be subsidised by the municipal government.

Three women have been raped, two in their own homes. Two victims were badly beaten. A team of 20 police officers has been assigned to find the suspect, described as a thin man in his 20s by an Italian tourist who was raped in the stairwell of an apartment building.

Handfuls of women, fearing they could be next, crowded into Tel Aviv weapons stores last week to buy electronic stun guns capable of emitting 65,000 volts, and teargas canisters.

"We usually get a woman in here every two days or so. Now we get ten a day," said David Harari, the owner of a weapons store. "They are taking the threat seriously and they want weapons."

The main advice from another store owner was "keep a knife under your pillow".

## Rangers forgot British hiker

By RORY CALLINAN

IT TOOK more than three weeks to begin the search for a British teenager missing in a remote rainforest because park rangers failed to notice he had not returned, according to an Australian government report.

Daniel Nute, 19, from Tonnes, Devon, was last seen starting a six-hour hike on July 29 last year while on a gap-year trip to Australia. Before setting off into Daintree National Park, northern Queensland, he filled in a bushwalker safety form at a ranger station, saying he was walking alone up Mount Sorrow. He did not return from a jungle wilderness that is home to crocodile swamps, stinging trees, poisonous snakes and dense vegetation that can disorient hikers.

Finally a youth hostel raised the alarm because he had not collected camping equipment left in his room. His father, Fraser, and brother, Ben, flew out to assist in a ground and helicopter search but no trace was found.

The report by Michael Chep, a senior government investigator, said "ranger-staff's actions 'cannot be considered as appropriate'". Lindsay Delozzo, regional director for the Queensland state government department, said the rangers had made an "obvious mistake". Fraser

Nute said he had not yet received a copy of the report, adding: "We go on hoping and believing that Daniel is still alive."

One ranger said the area was treacherous, even for locals, because in July early winter sunsets blacked out the dense vegetation by 3.30pm.

Queensland's environment department said the park was revising its procedures to prevent such an episode happening again.



Nute: failed to return

**Railtrack Group PLC Annual General Meeting Tuesday, 21st July 1998**

**Correction to poll results published on Friday, 24th July 1998**

Railtrack Group PLC have been advised that the poll result of those share holders voting on Resolution 14 ("That authority be granted to offer shares instead of a cash dividend") was incorrectly quoted. The correct poll result was 151,797,297 For and 529,753 Against.

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THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

# Media veterans return to the Killing Fields

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

IT SEEMED that the entire cast of *The Killing Fields* had returned to Phnom Penh for the recent general election. Their presence recreated the atmosphere of the Seventies, not least in the aroma of marijuana that wafted through the riverside Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC).

One almost expected to see Graham Greene, whose classic *The Quiet American* was on neighbouring Vietnam, drift through the corridors of the Hotel Le Royal. The base of correspondents during the Indo-China wars has been extensively renovated but is largely bereft of tourists because of the potential for sudden violence in Cambodia.

Le Royal was again home to Cambodia veterans such as Jon Swain of *The Sunday Times*, author of the recent memoir *River of Time*. "During the last year of the war," Swain recalled, "rooms on the top floor were going for just \$5 (£3). Phnom Penh was being rocketed and no-one wanted to be up there." They cost a lot more than \$5 now.

It was at Le Royal in early 1970 that correspondents waited with increasing anxiety for their colleagues to return from the field late every afternoon, before conducting a headcount. In a few weeks, about 20 correspondents did not come back.

Perhaps it was no accident that the final scenes in the filmed version of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* — *Apocalypse Now* — featured Cambodia. It is also appropriate that the most popular bar in Phnom Penh with relief agency volunteers and reporters, located next to the FCC, is the dark and dingy "Heart of Darkness".

Last week Michael Hayes, editor of the *Phnom Penh Post*, had to travel to the airport on an emergency mission to meet two arriving journalists. He carried with him a box of "reefers" — marijuana is legal in Cambodia as locals use it in a potent soup — for one, and a pistol for another who has made enemies here. The recipient of the box was Vietnam War-era and much-wounded photographer Tim Page. His book, *Requiem*, of war pictures taken by photographers killed in the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia, was recently published. Page grabbed his reefers gratefully and lit up.

There was something of cloud-cuckoo-land about the election since there were observers from opponents of democracy such as China, Vietnam and Burma.

An open-house reunion at the rebuilt French Embassy brought the veterans together. It was there in 1975 that all the surviving foreigners took refuge from the Khmer Rouge before they were eventually

driven in a lorry to Thailand. There was no marijuana here, but the champagne flowed.

Another stalwart present, portrayed in David Putnam's classic on the fall of Phnom Penh, was Al Rockoff, who is still working on a book of photographs which is to portray the history of Cambodia from the Khmer Rouge's "Year Zero".

Rockoff is famous for one of the best one-liners of the Indo-Chinese wars. On a trip outside Phnom Penh, he was hit by shrapnel during a mortar attack and his heart had stopped beating. But a Swedish medical team managed to resuscitate him. Some months later, Rockoff was again going to cover an attack when a newly arrived correspondent told him: "Don't go down there. Al, you'll be killed." "Well," drawled Rockoff, "It wouldn't be the first time."

Pol Pot's former right-hand man, Ieng Sary, who defected to the government side in 1996, was also in town, staying at a hotel partly owned by General Tea Banh, presently Defence Minister. As they dined together, the former foes kept staring at Thomas Hammarberg, the United Nations special representative on human rights who has criticised the present regime's abuses and pushed for the trial of all Khmer Rouge leaders.

"They were clearly speaking about me and, at one stage, pointed directly at me across the dining room," Mr Hammarberg said later. "I must admit it was a decidedly uncomfortable feeling."

The heart of darkness, it seems, still beats here.

Leading article, page 19

## Hun Sen attacks intimidators

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Prime Minister whose party won Cambodia's election but who needs to form a coalition to hold power, yesterday ordered an end to intimidation which has sent scores of opposition supporters fleeing their homes. A week after the poll, amid complaints of fraud, the Government held a party to thank international observers. But opposition leaders said they were not doing their job well. (AFP)

## Body of Rhodes 'to be dug up'

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE leader of a black empowerment group plans to dig up the remains of Cecil Rhodes, the mining magnate and arch-imperialist who founded Rhodesia, from their resting place in western Zimbabwe.

If the British Government fails to collect the remains, they will be thrown into the Zambezi river, said Lawrence Chikwedza, self-appointed head of Sangano Munhumutapa, a pressure group of undefined membership with a reputation for outrageous

statements. "One morning the nation will find the national shrine cleansed of the white man's grave which is a mockery to the traditional importance attached to the place," said Mr Chikwedza, who calls himself Munhumutapa III after a traditional chief.

Rhodes was buried in 1902 in the Matopos hills just south of Bulawayo.

Strikes banned: President Mugabe imposed a near-total ban on strikes at the weekend. The move is primarily intended to stop the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions from holding a five-day strike.



Rhodes: buried in western Zimbabwe



The end of L'Orient: the French flagship explodes during the daring raid by Nelson's fleet. Divers have located the vessel 35ft down

## Divers find blast from Nelson's past

Objects have been recovered from the French flagship at the Battle of the Nile, writes Mike Murphy

EGYPTIAN and international archaeologists diving in the Mediterranean east of Alexandria have found an astonishing array of artefacts from L'Orient, Napoleon's flagship at the Battle of the Nile.

Canon, navigational instruments, swords, and personal items such as belt buckles, pipes, shoes and tobacco tins, have been found in and around the shell of the vessel, which exploded 200 years ago after being set afire by Nelson's fleet in a crucial battle.

"The explosion must have been enormous," said Franck Goddio, leader of the diving team, from his Paris home yesterday. Contemporary reports describe how the blast was seen 25 miles away in Alexandria.

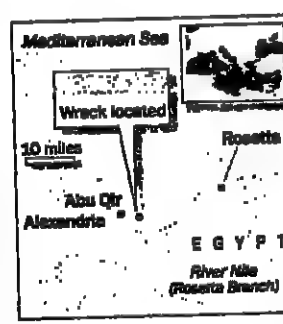
"We are finding objects from the ship dispersed over an area of half to three-quarters of a mile. And one gun weighing six tonnes had been blown half a mile."

The diving team is also finding hundreds of gold, silver and copper coins from the reigns of Louis XIV, XV and XVI as well as the period of the French Revolution. "It is remarkable to think of fighting men after the Revolution carrying coins bearing the likenesses of the hated kings they had helped to overthrow," Mr Goddio said.

The remains lie in waters about 35ft deep — easy for diving. "Although the ship now forms two mounds about 13ft high, they are covered by 6ft of sand and sediment. It is exciting exploration. Everywhere we look we find something from the battle."

He is in no doubt about having found L'Orient, for a bronze rudder support bears her original name from the 1760s — *Le dauphin royal*. "She was renamed *Sans culottes* in the Revolution, and then *L'Orient* by Napoleon," he said.

An intriguing find has been a series of individual characters from a printing



set. "We are finding dozens of letters, scattered everywhere. We know Napoleon carried a printing press with him, for making announcements to his generals and the conquered Egyptians, but it is amazing to find the evidence all over the seabed."

The decisive battle came on August 1, 1798, after the French fleet of 13 battleships, intended to occupy Egypt, had already seized Malta and seven million francs in gold and jewellery. The landing force of 38,000 troops disembarked in Alexandria and the fleet anchored in a mile-long line in the shelter of Abu Qir Bay.

In a daring manoeuvre, Nelson's fleet — the same size — dashed past the western end of the line in water considered too shallow for battleships, and took the French by surprise.

Attacked from both seaward and landward sides, the French were annihilated. The defeat cut Napoleon's line of communication with France and was eventually responsible for his withdrawal from the Middle East.



Napoleon: defeat at the Battle of the Nile led to a withdrawal by the French from the Middle East

High altitude thrills from the bestselling author of THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

# JACK HIGGINS

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# Britain provides reform model to free up packed prisons

GERMANY, it seems, can still learn from Britain. As the economy picks up, so the advantages of the "British model" appear less obvious. Hamburg's media says Tony Blair has lost his shine and that recession is around the corner. Siemens and BMW are ready to shed British jobs.

But German politicians have identified one area where Britain can set the pace: prison management. To anyone familiar with the ferment in British jails, that may appear a trifle ridiculous. However, many German experts believe their jails are about to explode. Privat-

## INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

isation, on British or American lines, is regarded by some as a solution and condemned by others. Inevitably — with all the main parties

wanting to show themselves tough on crime — it has become an election issue.

Bavaria shows the scope of the problem. The overspill means that many prisoners are sleeping on mattresses on the floor. Television and leisure rooms are being converted into extra sleeping space. Consultations with lawyers are held in corridors. Many inmates do not have cupboards to store their belongings. The freeze on new recruitment has resulted in every warder working long hours. The accumulated overtime now amounts to 36,890 days — more than 100 years. Bureaucracy makes mat-

ters worse. A prisoner wanting to make a telephone call has to inform the block warden who tells the social worker who checks with the financial department and reports back to the warden who decides whether the convict can make his five-minute call. Shortages run through the whole judicial system: too few judges, too few guards in court. Sometimes prisoners cannot appear because there is no one available to escort them to court. People run amok in courtyards because there is no control at the door. And the prisons are sardine cans — more than 50,000 inmates in the country, a

postwar record. By 2004 Germany will need 20 per cent more prison capacity. A group of deputies from the Hesse state parliament travelled to London recently to investigate prison privatisation. They — and other German parliamentarians — have been converted. Christian Democrats argue that privatisation is simply a rational use of resources.

The Justice Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate, Peter Cäsar, a Free Democrat, says that if private companies can build him a men's prison more quickly than a state-led consortium, they should get the contract. Most prison services — the kitchens, laundry, technical management, psychological and medical support — could, he says, be farmed out to private companies. Even Social Democrats favour privatisation because they can think of no other way of freeing money for drug rehabilitation, aggression therapy and other favourite projects.

So what is holding the Germans back? First a sense that the jury is still out on the British experience. "I do not like the idea of shareholder value impinging on areas where it has no business," says Rupert von Plottitz, the

Hesse Justice Minister. "Prisons should remain a state monopoly." He argues that prison should help rehabilitate offenders. That requires expert and time-consuming therapies — the first services to go when a prison starts to think in terms of profitability. Despite the horror stories leaking out of German prisons, most offenders have a reasonable life. Many jails have a choice of three menus for lunch — standard, vegetarian and Muslim. Peter Graf, the father of the tennis star Steffi, had his meals delivered from a nearby five-star hotel. Young offenders are sometimes taken, as part of a resocialising programme, to Majorca or Sri Lanka.

Such concessions are seized on by the press and by conservatives. Privatisation, it is thought, will end feather-bedding of convicts. At election time everybody is conservative on law and order and so the prison debate is partly obscured. By October the Germans will have a new government. Will it be strong enough to apply new solutions to old but increasingly menacing social problems?

## Serbian forces put torch to Kosovo villages

FROM TOM WALKER IN ORAHOVAC

VILLAGES were burning across central Kosovo yesterday, sending thousands more ethnic Albanians fleeing into the surrounding woods. Only last week President Milosevic of Yugoslavia claimed that the security operation in the area was over.

As the United Nations, the Red Cross and other aid agencies began delivering food and medicine to prevent a catastrophe, the Serbian police were almost blasé about the humanitarian crisis as they continued their ethnic-cleansing operations. Some even waved to reporters as they continued their ethnic-cleansing operations. Some even waved to reporters as they continued their ethnic-cleansing operations.

Pretty stone-walled villages in rolling countryside were punctuated by shell and grenade holes as smoke billowed from the gutted interiors. The police, merrily torching haystacks, German television filmed officers firing flares into maize fields. Along the main roads, which the Serbs are intent on keeping open, a scorched-earth policy was being implemented.

The misery of the bewildered refugees was compounded by the sadness of what they had left behind: their devastated villages are

full of livestock slowly dying without food and water. Pockets of Kosovo Liberation Army rebels sit in the woods and attempt daring night raids to rescue some of the animals. But it is a hazardous mission. Yesterday the Serbs claimed that the guerrillas had fired at traffic on the east-west Pristina to Pec road, which was promptly closed so that bombardments could go unobserved by observers of the five-nation Contact Group and journalists. Kosovans reported heavy attacks against villages in central Drenica, around Llashe, and further west around the town of Kline. Shells were reported falling near houses crammed with refugees.

In Orahovac, where the Yugoslav Army helped the police repulse the first KLA attack on an urban area ten days ago, Kosovans were being allowed back. Mostly men, they formed a pathetic queue at a sandbagged police checkpoint, where they were re-registered before being allowed into a town where angry Serb mobs still linger on most corners.

Police have closed off areas of the town, and there are persistent rumours of a mass grave hidden somewhere in the surrounding hills. But Orahovac is still no place to

ask questions, and even Contact Group monitors, who held secret talks with Kosovans, were shadowed by Serb thugs on Friday.

"It is quite hypocritical of Milosevic to say that the international agencies can escort refugees back to their villages," said a journalist at the Pristina daily *Bujku*. "At least 30 per cent will never return. And do you think Milosevic is going to rebuild houses?"

Police and army units in the midst of this wasteland were in high spirits, blithely unaware of the public relations disaster they were presenting. The primitive nature of Kosovo's conflict depressed diplomats, many of whom felt that they had been cynically deceived by Mr Milosevic. "A few weeks ago the Kosovans were poking the Serbs in the eye," said one. "Then several days later we get this Balkan thing: the Serbs have poked the Albanians in both eyes. But nobody is fooled by Milosevic any longer."

Amsterdam: The Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal is to launch an internal inquiry into the death at the weekend of a top suspect, the second in just over a month. Milan Kovacevic, 57, a Bosnian Serb, died in his cell at the weekend of a heart attack. (Reuters)



An armed Serb civilian peers from behind a wall of his house near Kijevo, where shooting erupted after Kosovo Liberation Army rebels staged an attack on a Serb police convoy near the town along the main east-west Pristina to Pec highway

## Bank admits guilt over Jewish gold

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

DEUTSCHE Bank has become the latest German company to accept a measure of guilt for its conduct during the Second World War by expressing "deep regret" about its role in taking tainted Nazi gold.

An unusual statement by Germany's largest commercial bank conceded "moral and ethical responsibility for the darkest chapter of its history". The bank was responding to the report of an independent historical commission which said Deutsche Bank might well have known that gold bought from Hitler's central bank, the Reichsbank, was taken from concentration camp victims.

The historians calculate that Deutsche bought 4,446kg (9,800lb) of gold, which may have included some delivered in sealed sacks by Bruno Meisner, an SS officer, to the Reichsbank in Berlin from deposits in Auschwitz concentration camp: that is, gold smelted from tooth fillings of camp inmates, from wedding rings and personal jewellery.

The Deutsche Bank statement accepted moral responsibility but did not mention legal or financial obligations. "The bank regrets most deeply the injustice that took place... as has always been stressed, Deutsche Bank fully acknowledges its moral and ethical responsibility for the darkest chapter of its history."

The omission was significant because Holocaust survivors have filed an \$11 million lawsuit in New York against Deutsche and Dresdner banks. The banks have rejected the claim, saying independent historians were not able to show that bank directors knew the origin of the gold. But the five historians who are investigating Deutsche's archives — they have been drawn from Israel, United States, Britain and Germany — say such prior knowledge cannot now be ruled out.

It is difficult to pin down the banks precisely because key files relating to the so-called Meisner gold disappeared from Bundesbank archives. According to an investigation conducted by Jennifer Robinson, Bundesbank and the Federal Archives in Koblenz, the 26 missing Meisner files seem to have been available until 1976.

In that year, or shortly afterwards, they were almost certainly pulped, along with thousands of other dossiers of the Nazi era.

The federal archivists said this week that it was "intolerable and unforgivable that documents so closely associ-

ated with National Socialist crimes could have been split up and then allowed to disappear."

The investigators excluded the possibility of a coverup, as "the historical significance of the files could not be properly established at the time."

However, Hans-Joachim Fischer, a freelance historical investigator, said yesterday that buried in the German Finance Ministry there should still be exchanges of correspondence on the missing gold files.

"If the files really were destroyed it could not have happened without the knowledge of the United States," Herr Fischer said.

The US was involved in the handover of gold files in 1948 from the Reichsbank to the Bank of German States — the forerunner of the Bundesbank. The inventory at the time registered "26 folders re Meisner deposits".

The United States, in other words, was fully aware that evidence on concentration camp gold was sitting in the

Deutsche Bank fully acknowledges its moral and ethical responsibility

Bundesbank archives. To press home a case against German commercial banks active during the war, one would have to dig deeper into the central bank archives and into the company records of Degussa, which smelted gold during the Nazi era.

The statement yesterday by Deutsche was essentially an attempt to limit damage. The Swiss — under threat of sanctions unless they offer more than £364 million to Holocaust survivors — are keen for Jewish lobbyists to "switch their attention to Germany which is after all, at the hub of the Nazi gold affair."

Seeking both trouble and lawsuits in the United States, many German companies have been hiring independent historians to assess their wartime past.

Companies coming clean include Degussa, the precious metals trader, various banks including Dresdner, once dubbed the "SS Bank", as well as Volkswagen and Daimler, which were among the many to employ slave labour.

## Drink lures Russians to early grave

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BEWILDERED by the rapid pace of change since the collapse of Communism, Russians are drinking themselves into an early grave. A new study published in the latest edition of the *British Medical Journal* found that in the early 1990s average life expectancy in Russia fell by more than six years, mainly as a result of crime, the widening gap in incomes, social dislocation and, above all, the huge amount of binge drinking.

Between 1990 and 1994, the period when the Soviet Union collapsed, life expectancy for men fell in some areas by a astonishing 8.6 years, with many men dying in their early forties. The greatest falls were often in relatively prosperous and industrialised areas, which have been most affected by the collapse of industry, the changes in working patterns and the increase in heavy drinking. The fall was not so great for women, though in some areas they too were dying by up to four years younger.

The figures add to the alarming demographic forecasts for Russia, which has one of the world's greatest imbalances between

male and female life expectancy and has recorded a steady fall in the average age of death for 20 years. The analysis, led by Professor Martin McKee of London's European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition, was based on Russian statistics.

It found a huge rise in male deaths from accidents and cardiovascular disease, classic results of heavy drinking. They also found that thousands more men were committing suicide, a symptom noted 100 years ago in societies in rapid change where the population was faced with sudden and unexpected psychological problems.

The fall in life expectancy was especially marked in northern Russia — where the cold has always prompted greater alcohol consumption — and much less obvious in the south and in Muslim areas.

The worsening situation appeared unrelated to poverty or the deteriorating health service. "The age groups affected most are those with least contact with health services, with people dying of causes that are relatively insensitive to medical care," the study said. Much of the deterioration can be

explained by unemployment and rapid labour turnover — a new phenomenon in Russia — as well widening gaps between rich and poor, and crime, a reliable indicator of a breakdown in social cohesion.

Murder rates in Russia are high, but homicides still accounted for only 12 per cent of all reported crime. However, while many — especially men — fell victims to crime, the overall rise in criminality had a greater influence in disrupting work patterns, accounting for almost 40 per cent of labour turnover in 1994.

The analysis concluded that the scale of transition in Russia was extreme, leading men especially to self-destruction by suicide or drinking.

Moscow: Alexander Shklov, chief executive of Russia's biggest diamond processing plant, Kristall, was shot dead in an apparent contract killing. Police in Smolensk, west of Moscow, were yesterday quoted by Russian television and the Itar-Tass news agency as saying they did not exclude commercial or political motives for the murder on Saturday. (Reuters)



An ex-soldier takes a punch at a security man in Moscow yesterday on Paratroopers' Day, often an occasion for binge drinking

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# Two monkeys changed my life

Professor Pat Wright is the world's pre-eminent primatologist. Interview by Barry Wigmore

Patricia Wright's life was transformed by two small monkeys. Thirty years ago she was "just another housewife" in New York. Then she saw a little bundle of fur in a pet shop and, because it was the Sixties and nobody thought much about endangered species in those days or how wrong it was to snatch animals from the wild and sell them in the concrete jungle, she bought it. Pat felt Herbie was just right for her small Brooklyn apartment.

But Herbie was lonely, so Pat found him a mate named Kendra. Six years later, both Pat and Kendra gave birth to female offspring in the same week. Fate, and that coincidence, launched Pat on a career that turned her into Professor Wright, explorer, saviour of rainforests and discoverer of species thought to be extinct. She became the world's pre-eminent primatologist, especially on the subject of Madagascar lemurs.

It's a long way from Brooklyn to the 112,000-acre Ranomafana National Park on Madagascar. Professor Wright made it there by way of South America. En route she divorced one husband, married another and probably saved a tribe from starvation. She grins at the memory: "I guess I saw myself settling down, having children, just like my mother did. I hoped I would be able to accomplish things but I had no idea what."

Herbie and Kendra were owl monkeys, a nocturnal species. As Pat took time off from her job as a social worker to care for her daughter, Amanda, she couldn't help noticing that there was monkey business afoot with her house guests. While Kendra breast-fed her little one, it was dad Herbie who did everything else. Pat went to the library to find out why, but discovered that to one knew. "This was when I realised what I wanted to do," she says.

As a girl, Pat, the eldest of six children, had always been interested in animals. She had wandered for hours with her father through the woods around her home in upstate New York. Her favourite reading was always Gerald Durrell.

So Patricia Wright, Brooklyn housewife and new mother, decided to go to the South American rainforests to study owl monkeys. Just like that? "Just like that," she says with a grin. She started applying for grants which were not forthcoming. "You're crazy," she was told. "No one goes into the rainforest at night, and that's the only time you can study night monkeys."

Lesser mortals might have given up. But Pat heard about an heiress, Nancy Milgrom, who was interested in wildlife. She wrote her. Nancy wanted to help Pat, but her lawyers said she couldn't unless this student of monkeys was affiliated to a university. Pat pulled strings, became affiliated, and Nancy gave her \$3,000 (about £1,200 in the Seventies).

With husband and baby — and Herbie, Kendra and their baby in tow, because no one would monkey-sit for four months — Pat set off for Peru by sea-seater plane and dugout canoe. Their native guide was reluctant to venture away from camp at night, so one evening Pat took a torch, her



The housewives' Indiana Jones? Pat Wright was a housewife until a passion for animals and adventure turned her into a remarkable authority on lemurs

notebook and a roll of tape to mark her trail and went looking for monkeys. "I got lost. I couldn't find the tape," she says. Then she heard a familiar sound — Herbie's distant cousin, chattering in the forest. She made notes as the monkey swung in the trees above and hurled fruit and urinated on her. In the morning, Indians took her back to her camp. "It was fun," she says. "Anthropology is being a detective, trying to find answers."

Back home, her findings were published in an anthropology journal. Pat's conclusion — that the males cared for the children because the females were not big enough to protect them — was groundbreaking. She was persuaded to return to university. Her marriage suffered as she studied, but she graduated in 1985. Meanwhile, in another twist of fate, she had discovered Madagascar. Studying with a group in Nairobi in 1984, she and her fellow students bought a cheap flight to the island off the east coast of Africa.

Flying over it, Patricia was devastated. "In many ways it's like the Galapagos Islands," she says. "It broke away from the continent millions of years ago and developed a separate ecosystem. Then man arrived and started slash-and-burn farming. I knew what pristine rainforest was, and 80 per cent of the island's forests had been destroyed. The red soil was bleeding into the river." On the ground, she had never seen people so poor after years of communist control. "I had to leave. I was

so upset," she says. But the following year she was back, lured by the chance to study another type of monkey, the chimpanzee-sized lemurs, which are found only on Madagascar. In particular, she wanted to find out how lemurs had developed a female-dominated society in which males are even rejected sexually until they have shown the proper submission. She also wanted to confirm or disprove the belief that the greater bamboo-eating species was extinct. "This is a distinctive, dark-

grey lemur with white ear tufts," she says. "I sat in the rainforest for two weeks, waiting for one, when I heard a sound I had never heard before. Suddenly, this creature races out of the undergrowth. It is much smaller than the greater bamboo and is almost orange in colour."

It took a year to capture one of the animals so blood samples could be taken. It was a new species, now called the "golden bamboo lemur", and it lives in harmony with the great gentle lemur and the greater bamboo lemur, which, to her delight, Patricia also found, alive and well. Each species eats a different section of the bamboo, and one interesting side-effect of Professor Wright's discovery is that the golden lemur eats a section of bamboo which contains large amounts of cyanide. By studying the lemur, scientists may be able to devise an antidote to the poison. How then does a 52-year-old native New Yorker adapt to roughing it in the jungle for months? "You bathe in streams, eat rice and beans and comb your hair once a day. It's exciting, real Indiana Jones stuff. I still love exploring."

Pat's work was not done, however. Slash-and-burn farming threatened the lemurs' bamboo habitat. The restrictive regime had been overturned and a progressive Government took over. It asked Professor Wright for help. She drew up a plan to turn the 112,000-acre rainforest into the Ranomafana National Park, financed largely through eco-tourism, helped by the British company Earthwatch. The park is a big draw. Local villagers have been trained as park rangers, guides and conservationists.

Village elders are paid for their knowledge of the area and are quick to tell Professor Wright when she makes mistakes. She says: "We built a rainforest museum. But worried elders said, 'We have played a part here, and we are proud of our heritage. We have many artefacts we could contribute.' They came back with wonderful material: ancient money, French currency from the 1920s, musical instruments."

"We told them it would be on loan to the museum but that they would always own it, and drew up a contract with them."

Professor Wright says her work is still far from done in Madagascar. She is eight years into a decade-long study of the male-female relationship among lemurs. She is also working with the Government on a project to regrow sections of rainforest. "It's not that difficult. We have farmers and schoolchildren planting 8,000 trees. The lemurs help to spread the forest because they eat seeds from the trees and pass them through their gut, and they grow better. The people don't want the forest to die — for them there was no option, it was slash-and-burn to farm, or starve. We are showing them the alternatives."

Pat pauses. "I have the most exciting job in the world," she says. "But much of it has nothing to do with the anthropology I've learnt. I just apply a Brooklyn housewife's common sense to the problems I encounter. And it works."

THE BOMB and the nuclear power plant are Siamese twins, linked through plutonium. As the Indians showed, plutonium produced in a nuclear power plant provides the easiest route to nuclear weapons.

In the past, international safeguard procedures were the only way of breaking that link but, like all diplomatic agreements, they remain in force only so long as they suit both parties.

A technical solution, which permanently separated the twins, would be more satisfactory. This solution does now exist, according to a company based in Washington, Radkowsky Thorium Power Corporation.

Last week company representatives were in Moscow finalising an agreement with the Kurchatov Nuclear Safety Institute and a fuel manufacturer, MSZ Electrostat, which will result in the technology being put to the test in a Russian reactor by 2002.

Had the Indians been supplied with this type of fuel, they would have found creating a bomb by the route they chose almost impossible.

In an ordinary reactor, fissile uranium-235 is split, yielding neutrons that maintain the fission reaction and also convert surrounding uranium-238 into plutonium-239. This can be separated from the spent fuel chemically, and is itself fissile (it will sustain the nuclear

## A way to keep bomb at bay

chain reaction needed for a bomb).

Radkowsky, now a professor at Tel Aviv University in Israel but for many years the top designer on the US Navy's nuclear power plants, was responsible for designing the alternative, which the company named after him. Its attraction is that it can be used instead of uranium in existing nuclear plants and can be dropped in without the need for a complete redesign. That makes the costs of the change much more manageable.

The new fuel comprises a core containing uranium, surrounded by a "blanket" of thorium, an element which is not fissile but which is converted



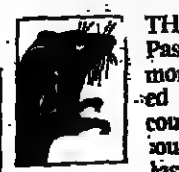
SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

by neutrons into fissile uranium-233. Thorium is cheap and plentiful, so there is no supply problem. And the uranium-233 produced is much harder to separate than plutonium, making bombs a much more difficult proposition.

The reactor produces only about a fifth as much plutonium as a conventional plant. This plutonium would be inclined to make any weapon "fizzle" rather than explode, cutting its yield by 95-97 per cent.

The deal reached by the Radkowsky Corporation and the Russians provides for a Russian water-cooled reactor to be retrofitted with a thorium core by 2002, and for Electrostat to reach full-scale production of

## Grain of truth about plague



THE JEWISH

Passover ceremony, celebrated each spring, could have a sound hygienic basis, says Dr Martin Blaser, an expert in infectious disease at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. As part of the ceremony, all leavened bread, grain and crumbs are removed from the house and replaced by unleavened bread.

Dr Blaser told the American science magazine *Discover* that grain may have protected the Jews from plague, carried by fleas which infest rats. Stored grain attracts rats, as

an outbreak of the disease in 1993 made clear. That was in Zaire, where grain had been stockpiled after a civil war.

Clearing grain from the home forces the rats to look elsewhere, assuming that unleavened bread is not equally attractive to them. But is there any evidence that Jews have suffered less from plague? The Bible tells of plagues that killed Egyptian firstborn, but gives no clear data on Jewish survival. The Black Death in Europe in the 14th century seems to have attacked Jews and Gentiles alike, but there are reports that when plague struck Venice in the spring of 1631, Jewish deaths were only half those of the Christians.

the fuel by 2005 for any world utility that wants to buy it. The attraction for the Russians is obvious, but those worried about nuclear proliferation are also showing interest.

"It's a lot better than what we've got," says Dr Robert Williams of Princeton University Centre for Energy and Environment Studies.

But it certainly isn't the complete answer. It would still be open to would-be nuclear powers to make bombs by enriching uranium.

This is more difficult, but it was the route successfully followed by Pakistan, and there is no technical fix to prevent it recurring.

## Swagman's desert song



DON'T tell the swagman, but a coolabah tree, under which he rested in Australia's national song, *Waltzing Matilda*, may be in peril. A report by scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation says that more care needs to be taken of the ground water necessary for the coolabah and other plants.

"Much of the Australian environment depends on underground water," says Dr Tom Hutton of CSIRO. "The trouble is, we don't know how much or to what extent."

Even when Australian rivers appear to have run dry, they continue to flow underground. They can then resurface and recharge rivers farther downstream. Dr Hutton gives warning that drilling wells to provide water for cattle, industry or domestic use can interrupt this process. Among the plants most reliant on ground water are the banksia woodlands of Western Australia's coastal plain.

The report calls for an assessment of how vulnerable ecosystems are, and a national policy for deciding how much ground water can safely be abstracted. "The classic Australian image is of a swagman under a gum tree beside a billabong," says Dr Hutton. "Those gum trees depend on ground water to keep them alive through the dry season. We are running the risk of killing an emblem of Australia we have had since *Waltzing Matilda* was first sung."

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**VIOLET:** Satin backless beaded strap top, £170, and grey diamanté-trim trousers, £190, by Violet. 11 Pont Street, SW3 (0171-259 5966). Oliver Spencer's family has a business making ecclesiastical vestments, so it is perhaps not surprising that when he set up Favourbrook in 1990, his aim was to create menswear that was traditional in feel but made from fantastic textiles. "Favourbrook wasn't really about fashion but, then again, it wasn't conservative either, so we had this particular place in the market," he says.

Spencer never planned to become involved in fashion as such — he was more interested in occasion-wear — but, with the launch of a women's wear line three years ago, a new, younger customer began to discover the label. Now he has launched Violet to serve those women. "I got together with the stylist Chary Durrant, and we thought, 'right, we've got these fabulous textiles, why don't we do something younger?'"

The silhouettes remain simple, but Spencer has let rip with the detailing: beading, embroi-

dery, sequins and faux fur all feature. Whereas Favourbrook women's wear centres on a relatively small number of jacket, dress and skirt shapes, Violet includes pedal pushers, bandeaux and wraps, with more of an edge to the design. The fabrics, however, are outstanding. All are designed in-house and made in either Suffolk or Lyons.

The business goes from strength to strength, with 36 US stockists, and plans to show in New York in September, in the slot after Calvin Klein.

## How to stay ahead of the in-crowd

The hottest new British designers for autumn are interested only in beautiful clothes, says Grace Bradberry



**ROWENA GILL:** Beaded flapper dress with grey slip underneath and jewel-encrusted strappy shoes, all by Rowena Gill, available made-to-order from Arabesk, 156 Wallon Street, SW3 (0171-594 3858).

Rowena Gill, 25, studied fashion at the Studio Bercot in France, then took a job in a Parisian fashion company at the age of 18. Walking home one night, she noticed a trail of jet beads spilling from a dustbin.

As she was looking at them, a man appeared and said he had a trunkful in his attic. She followed him upstairs and left with several bags of beads from the 1800s. They were the beginning of her inspirational designs.

It sounds like a fairytale, and Gill is very much wedded to the "fashion-as-fantasy" school of thought — she was one of those children who enjoys dressing up as Cinderella or Snow White. That chance encounter in Paris changed her career and, at 23, she was creating beaded catwalk sensations for Lacroix and Ungaro.

She has also worked for Galliano and Chloé. A few years ago she set up her own label in Britain (Gill is English), and her collection features spectacular dresses with a mythical feel. Her designs are unabashedly glamorous but also directional. The dress shown here follows the autumn trend for flapper-style evening wear.

Glass beads form fringes over dresses, while amulets are studded with multi-faceted gemstones, and chokers feature antique bugle beads. There are also Cinderella-like shoes and decorative bags.

**UNIFORM:** Off-the-shoulder fleece top, £115. Grey and red-appliqué trousers, £75, with lace-up pockets by Uniform, available from Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-491 7833). Bytown Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, (0171-620 0666) and Kokon Tosi, 57 Greek Street, W1 (0171-434 1316) national inquiries: 0171-430 1999. Black leather highheel boots, £165, by Johnny Moke, 396 Kings Road, S/W10 (0171-351 2232).

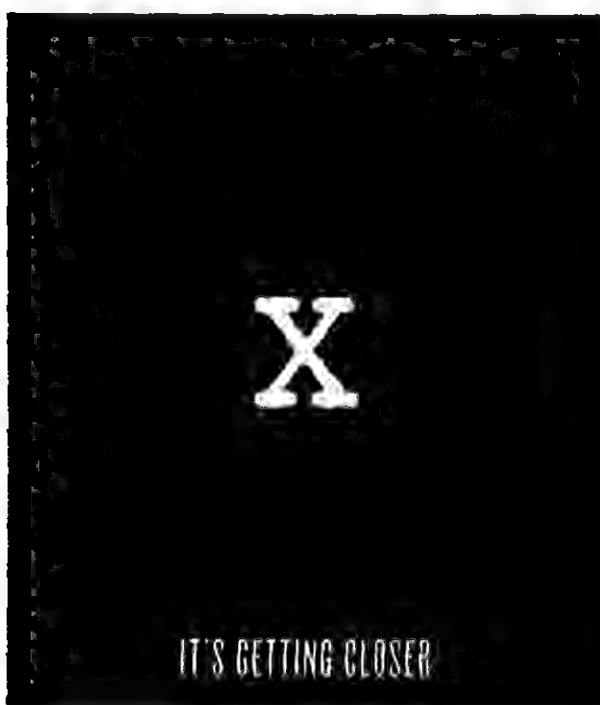
It may be a new label, known only to the cognoscenti, but there's already a buzz about Uniform, designed by Royal College of Art graduates Roger Lee and Lesley Sealey. Forget about fashion shows in abattoirs and alarmingly cut trousers: London's younger designers seem to be taking a different turn, towards something closer to couture — beautiful fabrics, fine finishes — then fusing this with elements of streetwear.

Lee and Sealey are adamant that they don't want to be the new anything — inevitably you soon become the old something. They simply want to attract customers by offering subtle clothes with clever surprises.

Sealey is predominantly a textile designer and spent her final year at the RCA in India learning new embroidery and print ideas. He did a work placement with Karl Lagerfeld. He is particularly interested in experimenting with proportion and in using interesting surface textures.

Collection 2, as it is known, uses basic fabrics such as suiting, corduroy, pinstripe and denim, then adds unexpected details.

Photographer: Jonathan Bookallil; Stylist: Sunny Rowley at Detail; Hair: Juan Carlos at GSM; Make-up: Denise Lilley at The Worr; Model: Panny at Models One



IT'S GETTING CLOSER

**MULLIGAN BY TRACY MULLIGAN:** Black strapless jet-beaded dress, £362, available from Harvey Nichols (0171-637 1450). Jet-beaded necklace by Rowena Gill, from Arabesk (0171-594 3858).

Tracy Mulligan has enjoyed the "new designer" epithet before. In the mid-Nineties she was one half of the Sonnentag Mulligan design label, which was too successful and was deluged with orders it found difficult to meet. This time round, she spent months on the production before staging a small, off-schedule show during the last London Fashion Week. Her "urban spiritualist" collection, a clever fusion of rustic and metropolitan, has been bought by Harvey Nichols and Saks 5th Avenue, among others.

Mulligan's inspirations range from capitalism to the Orkney Islands. The collection features print and embroidery.



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About two years ago I got a new girlfriend. She was young and beautiful. I was very keen. We dated, and in time we went to bed. But in bed, I couldn't do it. I achieved erection — but then something inside me threw a switch and I flopped. I was like an overcooked noodle.

At the time I didn't worry much. After all, it had happened before: over the years I'd had my tangles with brewer's droop and first-night nerves, like most men. Surely all I needed was to relax and all would be well.

It wasn't. The next time we tried to have sex, it happened again. The next time, the same. First-night nerves turned into second and third-night nerves, which swiftly turned into something like a nervous breakdown. Every time my girlfriend and I went to bed, as I tried to penetrate, I was reminded of the last time that I had failed. The result: no penetration. I was in an anxiety loop. I was impotent because I was impotent.

This soon became a living, shrieking mental hell. I was 32. Was the rest of my life to be spent playing golf and trying not to think about girls? I felt unmanned, psychologically, as well as physically. And this is the peculiar awfulness of impotence, which some people don't understand: it inflicts a deep psychic wound. A man who is impotent is not just "soft boy", the butt of bad sitcom humour. Poor old Roy from *EastEnders* who is impotent is not just denied the pleasure of intercourse, he is also infertile and anorgasmic. He is genetically pointless.

In my rising panic, I sought any escape. One easy route was to blame others, for example, my girlfriend. But her sexual willingness was equalled only by her inability. It couldn't be anything to do with her. Could it? It couldn't. One terrible night I tried to do it with someone else: the same process unfolded. Arousal, anxiety, dysfunction, desolation.

Now I was truly stuck. With mego self-destructing, I started reading around. Freud had little to offer, apart from the insight that "psychic impotence" — psychosomatic rather than mechanical impotence — was "perhaps the most common problem" he encountered as a psychoanalyst, and particularly seemed to affect men with "unusually strong libidos". The last comment was momentarily comforting, then disturbing. It merely reminded me of what I had lost.

My friends were sympathetic but equally unhelpful. Their advice ranged from "take your time" to "take zinc" to "take a holiday in Thailand". None of them seemed to appreciate the nature of my affliction: the vicious anxiety spiral. In my despair — and it was approaching despair by this time — I re-

After enduring the 'hell' of impotence, Sean Thomas tried Viagra — and found paradise. So why not, he says, allow all men the benefit?

sponded to one of those press adverts that offer help with male sexual problems. I rang the number and was given an appointment. The consultation took place in a pastel-coloured room just off Sloane Square. A woman of a certain age with a clipboard and too short a skirt, took down my date of birth, my medical history and the details of my problem. Quite helpfully, she said that what I was suffering from was called "spectatoring" and that it was very common: even Ernest Hemingway was a sufferer. I was being too self-critical and self-conscious of my performance with a desirable new girlfriend, and thus causing myself to fail.

Having deftly diagnosed my problem, the ministrated therapist put out her wares. There were several possible solutions. I could inject a substance called prostaglandin E1 directly into my penis. Or I could use a "rather cumbersome" suction pump. Or I could have an implant in my glans. Or... wincing, I interrupted. Wasn't there anything

that didn't involve appalling self-mutilation? The therapist started talking about "interactive" therapy, where I would be provided with a sexual partner and a counsellor and invited to have sex while being watched and advised. This sounded slightly more intriguing until the therapist unblushingly told me the fee: about £1,500. £1,500? With a sigh I fled into the bustle of Chelsea, the insufferable bustle of beautiful-but-unobtainable women and obviously more virile-than-me men.

As it happened, within a few weeks of my consultation, my girlfriend and I unexpectedly solved my problem with the help of a bottle of whisky and a spot of massage. But that hasn't stopped me wondering whether the one thing that therapist wasn't able to offer at the time — namely Viagra — would have been the solution. Would I, could I, have been spared the whole nightmare by a simple pill? The only way to find out was to try. So I did: last week I went to Harley Street and returned with a

small, blue, diamond-shaped tablet neatly inscribed "Pfizer". I was keen to have a bash right away, my girlfriend less keen. She didn't like the experimental aspect. She was convinced she would end up feeling used, whorish and, more to the point, sore. She also didn't see why I should have all the fun, given the reports about women on Viagra having spontaneous orgasms in Sainsbury's.

These were good arguments. But I had a clincher: I only had one tablet. Gracefully, she gave in. I popped the pill, bought my girlfriend a consolatory dinner (you are meant to wait an hour) and then we went to bed.

The result was at first disappointing. We had made love that morning (so as to siphon off any excess libido) but when we made love on Viagra that night, it all seemed pretty similar. My orgasm was slightly more intense, nothing more. I recognised some of the symptoms of amphetamine use: a slight buzz in the head, unwelcome garrulity. But sexually there was not much to gloat about. Wherefore all the fuss? The next morning, however, all was different. The manufacturers say that Viagra lasts for between two and four hours, with a half-life of six hours. Whatever the technicalities, eight hours after taking the tablet I was a monster of desire. The damn thing wouldn't go down. We had sex in the bed, beside the bed, in front of the mirror, against the mirror. We had sex so much that my flatmate complained. And my orgasm was definitely intensified. It was shudderingly

Hours after taking it I was a monster of desire

good. And after we'd had sex, well, then I wanted to have more sex. Immediately. My pale-faced girlfriend understandably demurred and opted for a Danish pastry. I sat there and waited for my erection to go down, which it did after 20 minutes.

I go into this detail because I want to get the point across: I have no doubt that Viagra would have solved my problem — my former impotence — immediately. Just like that. All those weeks and months of worry, those nights of fear and loathing, would have been ended in an hour. And this is the same wonderful, miraculous pill that has been greeted by the British medical establishment as a harbinger of apocalypse, a menace to the British way of life, too expensive to prescribe on the NHS?

When you think about it, our reaction to Viagra has been very peculiar. Would a cure for cancer have had Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, publicly fretting about NHS funds, as Viagra did last month? Would a remedy for AIDS have had Frank Dobson, the Health Sec-

retary, hastily reassuring everyone that it would only be prescribed for "strictly clinical problems"? Surely not.

Two reasons for this odd reaction suggest themselves. The first is old-fashioned British Puritanism. The postwar generation of reliable, cheap contraceptives got much the same cold shoulder. There was a time when safe coils, proper caps and the Pill were only available to, and prescribed for, married women.

But whichever way you look at it, two million impotent men equals a huge well of despair that could be swiftly dried up by a simple pill. So Viagra might cost us a billion pounds. So Viagra has the potential for abuse. So what? Can't the NHS budget for it, maybe even make room for it by removing less wonderful drugs from the available roster? If women are to be allowed abortions on demand, why shouldn't men have erections on demand?

Or is it that some women don't like the idea of all those men having a good time? It is not hard to detect a feminist agenda behind this anti-Viagra agitation. I hardly think a

pill that cured female infertility would have half the country clamouring for it to be rationed. Nor would a pill that helped frigid women to achieve gratification. Yet there are estimated to be two million men in the UK suffering from impotence — much of it, like my own, not "strictly clinical" and therefore not eligible, according to Frank Dobson, for NHS help.

But whichever way you look at it, two million impotent men equals a huge well of despair that could be swiftly dried up by a simple pill.

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● The author is a novelist and journalist.

## Do new ads refresh our old parts?

Grace Bradberry on a decline in the art of advertising

Say what you like about Roland Barthes, but Post-Modernism really began in 1974, when the Heineken advert first appeared, and the British middle-classes were able to forget Pinter and fill the time between avocado pear and black forest gâteau with small-talk about TV commercials.

You might think that the conversations about adverts are the signal to call a cab, but the sad truth is that adverts have a nasty way of lodging in our brains like bits of peanut between teeth.

The insidious way in which catchphrases invade

our heads is one of the worst irritations of the multi-media age. George Orwell described

advertising as "the rauling of a stick inside a swill bucket", and if you have ever sat in a traffic jam and thought "That'll be the Dae-woo" then you'll know what he meant. The most compelling calls to

stuff our snouts in the consumer trough tend to grate. The ones that stick around are the ones we would most like to show to the door — Bruce Forsyth banging his hammer in the Court's sale, Jonathan Ross and his wretched "stuffed-crust pizza" — you remember them far longer than that nice Motorola ad with the flying mobile phones.

As clichés go, that Heineken punchline was a pearl among swine, bringing to a close a series of adverts that were better than most of the sitcoms that they interrupted. Remember Wordsworth "walking about a bit on my own" before being inspired to write "I wandered lonely as a cloud"? Or the pastiche on *Pygmalion* in which two South Londoners coached a Home Counties girl in the way to pronounce "the water in Majorca"? Never again will we savour such delights, because the admen

have axed one of the few memorable slogans we actually like. From here on, "How refreshing, how Heineken," will reportedly be the dumbest slogan expected to penetrate our extremities. It may well do so, but they won't tingle in the same way. For 24 years the knowledge that Heineken refreshes the parts our beers cannot reach has been part of the fabric of popular culture. We haven't seen the slogan for a while because executives at Heineken believed the future was in "premium" lagers and stopped advertising its original, comparative-

ly watery brew. Now they have decided they were wrong — the British, particularly our women, like their older, weaker beers. But the old slogan has gone flat or so the admen believe. It's another blow to our national life. Clichés have been described as dead poetry, and slogans are right in there with them, but we just don't seem able to manufacture them like we used to.

Stefano Hatfield, the editor of *Campaign*, says this is largely due to the cost of TV airtime and the fragmentation of TV audiences. "In the 1970s you could put out an advert during *Coronation Street* and *Bliss This House* and reach 20 million people. The most memorable slogans and jingles were from that period. As the commercial TV audience fragments you have to chase that viewer around and it becomes more expensive. The Renault Clio adverts, for example, have taken seven years, spending the same amount of money every year."

Instead of jingles and slogans, advertisers have turned to celebrities for a more immediate fix. The sight of their happy faces as they enjoy yet more of the fruits of the retail boom is loathsome indeed.

The ad for Heineken was a pearl among swine



Sean Thomas was most impressed after sampling Viagra

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TOMORROW How was it for her? The hysterectomy Bonnie Myers had 12 years ago meant the end of her sexual fulfilment. Then she tried Viagra.

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THEATRE

Going panto at the Globe?

# THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE



## Send out the clowns at the Globe

**THEATRE:** Apple-throwing and ad-libbing — has the 'authentic' audience participation at Shakespeare's Globe gone too far? Benedict Nightingale is worried

The other day a foreign student was walking into the replica of Shakespeare's wooden O on Bankside when she was grabbed by a bizarrely dressed man. He was Marcello Magni, the Italian clown who was about to play Launce in *The Merchant of Venice*, but she did not know that. Why was this tiny, frenetic lunatic seizing people's sandwiches, pouring water over them, and behaving in ways that in nice sedate countries would have people phoning the police and asking for the straitjacket squad? The girl freaked out, and had to be taken by ambulance to hospital.

Not a very serious affair, maybe, but one that reactivates a worry which had begun to gnaw at the front as well as the back of my head. Is what is ponderously called "audience participation" going to spoil work at Shakespeare's Globe in ways that rainstorms and passing helicopters have failed to do? Are we en route to the *Hamlet* in which Claudius makes V-signs at the groundlings, and the groundlings yell "Go for it, boy" at the hesitant prince? As Mark Rylance's theatre begins its previews of two

new productions, Dekker's *Honest Whore* and Middleton's *Mad World, My Masters*, it is time to offer him a friendly warning. If things continue the way they are going, the artistic director had better have several ambulances on standby, just to take serious playgoers to a place where the

**'The house style tends to push even Shakespeare towards panto'**

blood-pressure can be professionally reduced.

Let's instantly agree that the Globe, now in its second full year, is in many respects proving a great success. There have been enjoyable productions, such as the *As You Like It* still in the rep, and good performances, not least from Rylance himself as a sly yet forlorn Proteus in *Two Gentle-*

*men of Verona* and a hilariously comby, smug cuckold in Middleton's *Chaste Maid in Cheapside*. But how does he feel when he stands in the Doge's court as Bassanio in the current *Merchant of Venice*, and hears Shylock booted and his forced conversion to Christianity received with the same cheers that have apparently sometimes greeted the grossly anti-Semitic Gratiano? Well, maybe there was the same reaction back at the time when Dr Lopez, Jewish physician to the Queen, was being tortured to death for allegedly plotting against her.

From the start, Rylance has made it clear that he wishes his groundlings to feel as free as their Elizabethan predecessors to move about, heckle, even chuck orange peel at the stage. He can also reasonably point to the configuration of the Globe, which thrusts actors out deep into the audience and, unlike today's proscenium-arch playhouses, forces them to acknowledge the spectators' existence even at intimate moments. So why not make an aesthetic virtue of the artistic necessity?

Some such reasoning doubtless lies behind the exercises in sharing now to be found at the Globe. In *As You Like It*, apples are thrown into the audience and returned with interest. The wrestling match between Orlando and Charles doesn't merely spill into the pit, but ranges around it, sending groundlings spinning as fall follows fall. There are hisses for wicked Duke Frederick and bad Oliver, and loud spoof sighs for poor, rejected Silvius. Meanwhile Magni continues to run spectacularly amok in *The Merchant*, doing horse impressions, miming death-throes and I don't know what.



Globe artistic director Mark Rylance (centre, as Bassanio) stands accused of reducing the intricacies of *The Merchant of Venice* to the level of a football game

Last year it was much the same. The audience made its feelings about the Agincourt campaign very evident. The dastardly Gauls were booed and even Henry V's decision to kill his prisoners cheered. If a French couple had come to the Globe via the provocatively named Waterloo, they would have concluded their nation was spiritually at war with England, and gone straight back to Paris. That way, they would at least have avoided the excesses of *Chaste Maid*, in which Elizabethan Londoners were ad-libbing about Peter Mandelson and chasing one another round the Globe's balconies and almost up to its thatched roof.

I don't think I'm being a killjoy, a pedant, or both, when I say it is time for Rylance to draw back. The first, most obvious reason for a rethink is that plays are in danger of being more coarsened than a big, tall theatre open to the sky makes inevitable.

One critic felt that the morally intricate hostilities between the Jewish and Christian factions in *The Merchant* had been reduced to the level of "an Arsenal-Tottenham football day", and several of us have talked ominously of a house-style that tends to push even Shakespeare towards melodrama or panto. An audience which jeered lingo or yelled "Look out, he's lying" to his victim would doubtless be an involved audience; but

they would be unlikely to end up with a very searching, subtle Othello.

Maybe the reason the Jacobean rated Shakespeare no higher than his contemporaries is that the plays they saw were a lot more crudely staged, performed and received than is the case today. And here we come to the nub of the problem. Should the authenticity the late, great Sam Wanamaker wanted at the Globe really extend from the building to the bond between actors and audience? Indeed, how can it do so?

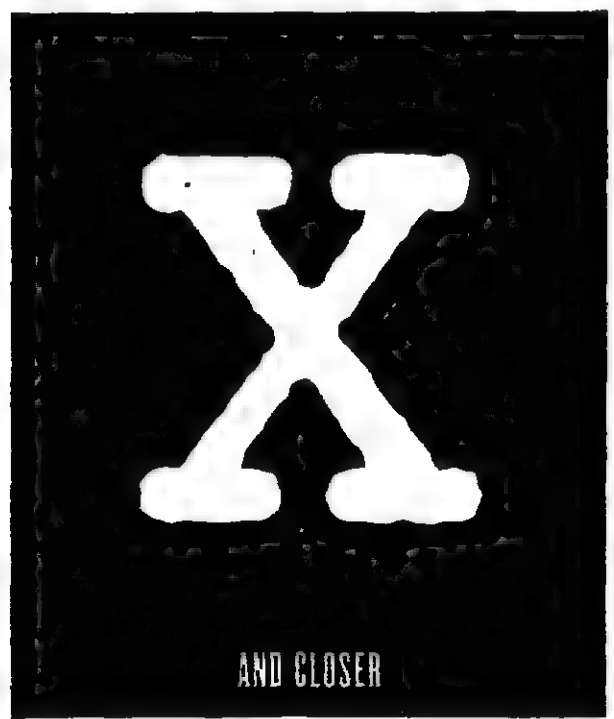
These days the groundlings are not the smelly, seething mix of apprentices, workmen, layabouts, rakes, prostitutes and pickpockets that enraged the Elizabethan puritans, but

a mainly middle-class blend of students, backpackers, Japanese tourists, American professors and people unwilling or unable to get a £15 or £20 seat.

The result is self-consciousness, phoney role-playing and confusion. When David Rintoul's Duke Frederick points menacingly at his hecklers, or John McNery's Jacques hurls another apple out at the audience, they are provoking us in ways that Shakespeare's company would surely have found artificial, absurd, even dangerous. Meanwhile the Globe's ushers, conscious of a fault of modern fire-regulations, are busy warning off those groundlings who block the exits by perching on the stairs. For all its belief in freedom, there is a lot of control at the Globe. At

times it verges on infantilism. The groundlings in particular are being simultaneously asked to pretend they are Elizabethans and encouraged to behave as if Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf were onstage. So what will happen when the Globe, which has so far confined itself to comedy, history and the odd Jacobean thunderer, finally tackles one of the great tragedies?

Let's hope patterns of behaviour at the theatre are not yet fixed. Let's hope the major directors and actors who have yet to test their talents there will succeed in creating an emotional intensity which will banish self-indulgent silliness. The roguish *Lear*, the romping *Macbeth* are too awful to contemplate.



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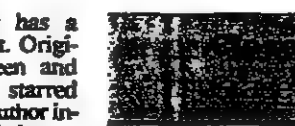
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## Clever treatment for pain

**R**adha Bharadwaj's play has a short but glamorous past. Originally conceived for screen and turned into a film in 1991, it starred Madeleine Stowe as a children's author interrogated by Alan Rickman's sadistic government official about the political content of her books. It rapidly fizzled into obscurity, deemed too theatrical for good box office. The script may have lost its cinematic glamour in the transfer to stage, but it seems to have found a natural home, not least because black box fringe theatres in South London are uncannily suited to torture chamber plays.

Alison Baker plays the shivery, pesty young writer who is dragged from her bed in the middle of the night to a spartan interrogation room decorated with the usual tools of the trade: banister, desk, anglepoise lamp, blindfolds and meat hooks dangling from chains. Accusing her of subliminally indoctrinating young children with her new book *Close Land*, our official sets about extracting a confession.

The task in Alex Johnston's new adaptation of the book has been to get this literary equivalent of a Central Casing works outing off the page and on to the stage without crushing the precarious lattice of the original's narrative. The surprising thing, given the



complexity of the task of turning this damburst of wild diversion into one night's theatre, is the panache with which Johnston and the director, Jimmy Fay, have achieved this task. The captivating production moves confidently between mythological hallucination, idle pub banter and penny dreadful.

Fay has found an inspired and intelligent fit between all the show's constituent parts. Johnston's cut-and-paste text mirrors O'Brien's stories-with-

in-stories structure with a nest of plays within plays, and even plays within plays within plays. The theme is taken up by Johanna Connor's mobile peep show design, which offers stages within stages, while an extended "silent movie" section where the stage turns briefly into a cinema (admittedly an idea rather blatantly snatched from Annie Ryan's recent *Baby Jane*) extends the Russian doll theme.

For all the craftiness of Fay's staging *At Swim Two Birds* is at heart a simple celebration of storytelling that leans heavily on its storytellers. Fay's direction is assured enough to make this possible, while still gently tugging the action towards its dramatic conclusion.

a subversive. Her story, about a child who imagines herself whisked away to exotic places when she is daily locked into a closet by her mother, seems beyond any sort of radical agenda.

In fact by not giving the play any political content at all apart from an obviously neurotic government, this battle of wits is strangely disorientating. The brute mechanics of breaking someone's body to win their mind would have limited theatrical appeal were it not for the chilling performances that belie the actors' young years. It is only when the torture has reached the point of no return that we are suddenly fed a sinister truth that throws a ghastly light on the relationship of torturer and tortured. It is the one real cinematic piece of manipulation in the play. But ironically, it is here that you also discover how cleverly the ground has been softened by Cowie's production. Not for the faint-hearted.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## Fine fiction in cracking form



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Fay has found an inspired and intelligent fit between all the show's constituent parts. Johnston's cut-and-paste text mirrors O'Brien's stories-with-

The large ensemble cast moves together with the daunting precision of an express train. Particularly satisfying were Ronan Leahy's wild-eyed student, Ned Demme's languidly ghoulish Poole, Tony Flynn's gymnastically raving Sweeney, and Karl Shell's hilarious simpleton Furriskay, who all added to the pleasure of a production that does justice to one of Irish literature's most delicious labyrinths.

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# A Church that is a world apart

Ruth Gledhill on a continental fault-line dividing Anglicans

Today marks the start of a week that could either make or break the Anglican Church. During the past fortnight, the 750 archbishops, bishops and their suffragans from 38 provinces in the worldwide Church have been meeting in secret sessions at Kent University, Canterbury, at the 13th Lambeth Conference.

In spite of its Augustinian associations, a place less conducive architecturally to spiritual reflection can scarcely be imagined. It is all too easy there to envisage the Church ending up like so many lumps of inarticulate, immovable concrete, separated from each other and also from the world, gradually eroded from human consciousness by the secular winds of change.

The roots of the Anglican Communion lie in the British Empire and the Commonwealth. There are at the conference three Lutheran bishops from Scandinavia, members of the conference for the first time. But otherwise, the European perspective is simply not on the agenda of the Anglican Church, whose leaders are instead gazing with increasing anxiety towards the thriving Churches of Africa and Asia. It is a fault-line between developed and developing world that could undermine the foundations of Anglicanism.

When the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, speaks proudly of the 70 million Anglicans worldwide, it sounds impressive. What is rarely stated is that of these, 26 million are in the Church of England. Barely one million now go to church here, the remainder being only nominal Anglicans. Likewise in America, there are 2.5 million Episcopalians, in a population of 260 million, but fewer than one million Anglicans in church each Sunday. Contrast this with Nigeria, where there are 17.5 million Anglicans, almost all of whom go to church each week. Or Uganda, where there are eight million, again most of them practising. Then look at their respective representations at Lambeth. The Church of England has 114 bishops. The American Episcopal Church, thanks to its great wealth, has an extraordinary 300 bishops, of whom about half are at the conference, most of them peddling liberal agendas, and some approaching atheism. Nigeria, by contrast, has 61 bishops and Uganda a mere 28.

Yet there are more bishops from the developing world at this Lambeth than ever before. And what the Africans and Asians lack in quantity, they make up for in quality. They have skills of argument and debate honed through decades of living in tense, sometimes corrupt political environments, in dealing with Islam, and through periods when many of their flocks have suffered martyrdom for their faith. And they are angry. They

**'You gave us the Bible, and now you say it isn't true'**

are angry that Western Anglicans seem determined to promote what they regard as an unbiblical line on homosexuality, and frightened that the West's approach to Islam appears to them as one of appeasement.

One African bishop told me last week: "You came over to our country 150 years ago and gave us the Bible. We believed it. Now you are telling us the Bible is not true. Christians come to me and say: 'My Muslim brother has a priest who tells him to do this because it is in the Koran. He does what his priest says. Father, what do you say? What can I say? He has just read about an American or Anglican bishop saying this or that in the Bible is not true, that homosexuality is not a sin, that the Resurrection did not happen.'"

Resolutions on both these crucial issues, Islam and homosexuality, will come before the conference this week. The atmosphere of mutual distrust has been further poisoned by the liberal Episcopalian Bishop Jack Spong's description of his African brethren as "uneducated" and "superstitious". The open debate that is necessary to heal wounds between both sides has been hampered by the control and secrecy surrounding the sessions as they have met for the past two weeks.

In spite of attempts by the Church's spin-doctors to downplay them, the difficulties seem more serious even than those surrounding women's ordination. Though hundreds of clergy opposed women's priests and parishes have split from the Anglican Communion as a result, even that debate did not set entire continents against each other. It is highly tempting to speak in terms of a pending schism, especially when the Church of England's chief spin-doctor, the Rev Bill Beaver, is frequently heard to say, in faintly hysterical terms, to the journalists here: "Listen to me: there is no schism!"

However, to conclude that schism is inevitable is to underestimate a man who has been consistently underestimated. The fact is that the Africans and Asians are unlikely to leave the Anglican communion while George Carey is its *primus inter pares*, because they truly believe him to be "one of us". They regard the Archbishop of Canterbury as their leader in resisting the tide of liberalism which they say is destroying the Church in the West. He is their fifth column in their march against secularism.

This is not to say that Dr Carey takes a literalist approach to the Bible. He does not. But he has an evangelical approach greatly trusted by the Church's conservative and traditional wings. Dr Carey is certain that the Church will emerge at the end of this week with both credibility and structure intact. Only God knows whether he is right.

Heaven Can Wait. The upstairs lavatory was labelled "The House of Lords", while the downstairs one, for the domestic help, was tagged "The House of Commons".

## Poseurs

ONLY Tony Blair now stands in the way of Paddy Ashdown's ascent into the National Portrait Gallery. The trustees have decided that after

The future of the United Kingdom rests on the struggle between Gordon Brown and Alex Salmond

# Cain and Abel fight for Scotland's soul

Two Scotsmen, both in their middle forties, will decide the future of the United Kingdom. One of them is Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, MP for Dunfermline East since 1983, one-time lecturer in politics. The other is Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, Member for Banff and Buchan since 1987, one-time energy economist with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The two men have wholly incompatible ambitions. Gordon Brown's ambition is to succeed Tony Blair as Prime Minister, and carry to completion a more Scottish and more European version of the new Labour project. Alex Salmond's ambition is to become the first Prime Minister of an independent Scotland, early in the next century. Neither can achieve his ambition without defeating the ambitions of the other; neither can achieve his ambition without displacing Tony Blair.

The battleground is Scotland; the protagonists are Scottish. Apart from the Prime Minister himself, those of us who live in England or Wales can have little influence on the outcome. If the SNP wins the first election for the Scottish parliament on May 6 next year, it is highly probable that will lead to Scottish secession, to the dissolution of the 1707 Act of Union, within a few years. Current opinion polls all put the SNP in the lead; one of the most recent puts it 14 points ahead. The polls are volatile: one says that 72 per cent

of Scottish electors think Scotland will reach independence inside 15 years. Inevitably it is a powerful argument.

The two men are closely matched. Gordon Brown has the gloomy version of the Scottish temperament; though pleasant to meet, he seems solitary, anxious and scared. Alex Salmond is the cheerful Scot; he shares the Scottish temperament of James Boswell, rather than that of John Knox or Lord Reith. He is an easy man in company, humorous, relaxed, amiable. Where Gordon Brown is dour, Alex Salmond is droll. In democratic politics that is an advantage.

Unexpectedly, since it is Gordon Brown who is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is Alex Salmond who thinks most like an economist. That was his profession, by which he earned his living as a young man. Both men have serious intellectual abilities; the battle will not be fought at a superficial level. Both take a strategic view of politics. Gordon Brown has been the intellectual force behind new Labour; Alex Salmond sees the cause of Scottish independence in historic terms: he is not just concerned with winning Scotland's independence, but with making independence a success.

Both men are "good Europeans"; Gordon Brown wants to take Britain into the single currency, and perhaps has some contempt for Tony Blair's more cautious approach. Alex Salmond's concept of Scottish independence is based on Scotland becoming one of the smaller countries of the European Union, like Ireland, Portugal or Denmark. Both men are Scottish social democrats; the SNP, under Alex Salmond's leadership, will always be a social democratic party. Both are men of the Centre Left, not of the Left: they are Cain and Abel.

The SNP's lead in the polls for next May's election threatens the whole future of the Government. Scotland has already come to see Labour government as London government. The anti-English feelings raised by 18 years of distant Tory rule are already transferring themselves to the Blair administration. The SNP argues that Scotland would be more successful, more prosperous, as an independent nation. It is making this argument at a time when manufacturing industry is moving into recession throughout the United Kingdom. It points to Ireland as an example of the growth that can be created by independent policies inside Europe. Labour is replying with tax scares, using an old Tory tactic against the SNP.

**William Rees-Mogg**

One of the SNP's main election themes will be that Scotland can again become an enterprise economy, as it was in the 19th century. Nationalists believe this can be based on the traditional Scottish business virtues of pioneering initiative combined with thrifty management. In Fleet Street, it was extraordinary how many leading entrepreneurs of the 20th century came from families which left Scotland in the 18th or 19th century, went to Canada or Australia, and came back to the proprietorships of London

newspapers. The Scottish nationalists want to revive these entrepreneurial energies.

To be successful, an independent Scotland would need to be one of the magnets for investment inside the European Union. That dictates a number of policies. An independent Scotland would have to be friendly to business, including English business. The Irish example of low corporate taxes is likely to be followed in the SNP manifesto. For a small country there is a huge leverage in any extra share of European investment. Scotland has therefore to seek good business relations with England, her largest business partner; that means Scottish corporate taxes ought to be below the English.

The SNP wants to avoid a "messy divorce" for good Scottish reasons. Alex Salmond lived through the brilliant success of Tony Blair's campaign before 1997. He saw how the new Labour propaganda took the threat out of the Labour Party. It seems likely that he wants to remove the outstanding fears of Scottish independence, both from Scottish voters and from English businessmen. The ideal argument for

Scottish nationalism is that separation would be good for Scotland and England. Instead of a "messy divorce", there should be happy independence for both nations.

The Labour Party pushed devolution through the general election and through Parliament on the argument that it was an alternative to independence. The Conservatives argued that devolution would lead to separation, perhaps gradually but perhaps quite rapidly. If the SNP wins the first election for the Scottish parliament, the process of independence will accelerate. Yet the Labour Party is in a weak position to win that election.

Labour in Scotland is feuding, embittered and demoralised. Old Labour is accused of the corrupt management of local government, but does represent a real urban culture; it has its principles. New Labour, though manipulative, is more innocent of corruption, but is almost rootless. The process of selecting candidates under a list system, with gender equality, has alienated those rejected after a lifetime of service to the Labour Party. Many younger Labour supporters already believe independence is inevitable.

Gordon Brown is the real leader of Scottish Labour; the campaign will depend ultimately on him, not on the Anglicised Tony Blair. Alex Salmond is the leader of the SNP. The only question is: which man is the captain of the *Titanic*, and which the captain of the iceberg?

# Prisoners of conscience

Frank Field's spectre will remain over welfare, says Peter Riddell



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The martyrdom of St Frank would be an ideal subject for one of those moral parable paintings which the Victorians so liked. I can just see it on the walls of the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight, a few minutes down the road from Mr Field's Birkenhead constituency — the eponymous hero confronted by a sinister Gordon Brown in full armour with a Lady Macbeth looking like Harriet Harman in the background.

Alas, that image, tempting as it is for Tory politicians and papers, will not do. Nor will the alternative, so assiduously peddled by Downing Street this weekend, of Mr Field as an arrogant bumbler out of his depth in the real world of politics.

In reality, there has been a clash not just of personalities but also of distinct policies. And last week's reshuffle represented not the abandonment of a crusade for reform under Mr Field, but rather an attempt to revive reform under a new team. Tony Blair is himself partly to blame, both for raising expectations about what welfare reform could achieve and for appointing the inherently combustible duo of Harman and Field.

The debate was also prejudged from the start by the Chancellor's determination to press on with his own welfare package based on the principle of means-testing, with the New Deal proposals for the unemployed and the working families tax credit.

Mr Field has attacked means-testing as morally corrosive because it undermines incentives to work and to save and increases welfare dependency. (The Tories argue that such means-testing inevitably affects those further up the income scale.) By contrast, Mr Field wants to increase personal responsibility and self-reliance

via universal benefits and the restoration of the contributory principle. However, this would cost a lot of money, since it involves higher benefits, and therefore higher contributions/taxes paid by the better-off.

The social insurance approach has been rejected by Mr Brown, as he makes abundantly clear in his interview with *The Times* this morning. "I am not going to be a tax-and-spend Chancellor — no matter how persuasive the arguments about the desirability of particular changes." The Treasury argues that Mr Field anyway never produced a workable plan.

In these debates, Mr Field has been more respected by his political opponents than his supposed allies. While he anticipated many of the arguments of new Labour, he has never

been a Blairite, or a Brownite. He is too much of a loner.

Mr Field has admitted that one of the challenges of becoming a minister was to answer the charge about not being a team player. But even if this weekend's anonymous attacks about his record are ignored, less committed Whitehall observers question whether Mr Field was ever really out to be a minister, as opposed to a thinker and moralist — though he has never allowed a proper chance to show that he could be.

These differences meant that meetings of the Cabinet's welfare committee have been unproductive, with a brooding Mr Field and a waffling and increasingly prickly Ms Harman. A

myriad of ideas have been floated from the Treasury, from Mr Field, and from the Downing Street policy unit. The welfare Green Paper in March highlighted the lack of progress, since it was long on principles, but short of specific proposals.

John Denham has been working for some time on a second, or stakeholder, pension on top of the low basic state pension. But there has been no clear political direction from the top.

Hence, Mr Blair's decision to replace the Harman-Field team at Social Security with Alistair Darling and Mr Denham as number two. They are expected to deliver reform. Their priority is pensions.

The Government is trying to fulfil two related aims — encouraging those who can to save as much as pos-

sible while they are working (as many do via occupational pensions) and increasing resources available for those who cannot save because they are unemployed, or their incomes are too low or erratic.

Ministers have been dancing for some time round the idea of compulsion and have been worried that this will be depicted as another form of taxation. Mr Field has argued that, without compulsion, the promise of a means-tested guaranteed income for pensioners will reduce the incentive to save. The likelihood is that people not already in approved occupational schemes will be compelled to save in private top-up schemes, with scope for flexible contributions.

Otherwise, Mr Darling is likely to follow the policy adopted by Peter Lilley of tightening access to sickness and disability benefits by requiring new eligibility tests rather than cutting the cash amounts. Overall, however, it is naive to expect dramatic savings. The best that can be hoped for is a continuation of the slower overall growth in social security spending that we have seen in recent years.

Nonetheless, a major change is occurring in the scope of the welfare state, away from redistribution to targeting and regulation. The aim is to help people into work and to provide a minimum income for those who cannot work.

At the same time, the middle-class welfare state is being challenged — by introducing student tuition fees, cutting tax breaks for pension funds, gradually phasing out mortgage tax relief, and ending universal child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds (with the probable taxing of all child benefit, at least for higher-rate payers).

That is why the recommitments over the departure of Mr Field are not about reform versus the status quo. Rather, they are about alternative models of reform — and the onus now is on Mr Darling to show that his proposals will not only provide increased security but will also break the culture of welfare dependency.

Mr Field may have failed in his ambition to be the architect of welfare reform. But he will remain its conscience.

# The fast lane

ONE PERSON who will be spared the normal gridlock on weekend escape routes to the countryside is Baroness Hayman, who, until the reshuffle, beavered away as a Roads Minister. Amid the cull of programmes, the Ministry of Transport gave the green light to work on the London-Norwich route — happily, the path the baroness takes to her new country cottage. The Haymans like to weekend in Merton, a neat little Norfolk village, just off the A11. The review, Hayman's last contribution to transport policy before her move to Health, urges "the improvement of access to more remote areas of the region" by dualising the A11 "from Fiveways to Thetford" — a stretch which lies along the fastest route from London to her cottage. The RAC calculates that the proposed work, which the review says is to be "taken forward without delay, subject to full appraisal", will "halve journey time" on that stretch of the route.

It is ridiculous to suggest that any road travelled on by a minister should be taken out of the review, protests the baroness. "I have done nothing improper." Indeed, I welcome any improvement to that stretch: an ill-timed puncture one New Year's Eve forced me to hitch a ride, clad in smart black tie, on the back of a passing tractor.

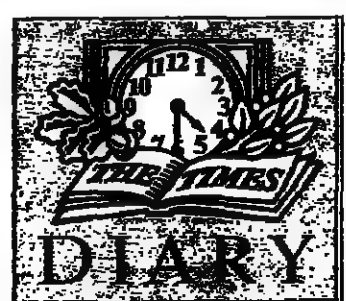
● A names double, Caribbean style. A.D. Mitchell tells of his old house in Trinidad, (called Why



Heaven Can Wait. The upstairs lavatory was labelled "The House of Lords", while the downstairs one, for the domestic help, was tagged "The House of Commons".

## Poseurs

ONLY Tony Blair now stands in the way of Paddy Ashdown's ascent into the National Portrait Gallery. The trustees have decided that after



ten years as leader of the Liberal Democrats, Paddy's rugged features have earned their place in the pantheon. Flattered and excited, he has been canvassing modern artists to find a suitable portrait. Not so fast: Paddy must hold his pose, as Blair, having agreed to sit, is being tardy about arranging a brush with the canvas. "We can hardly let Ashdown in before we unveil the Prime Minister," says a black beret at the NPG. "The PM is causing a bit of a logjam." Surely Tony's Tuscan idyll would be the ideal place to push those logs.

● Step forward Vicky Lee, Mohamed Al Fayed's latest illustrious recruit. Vicky (right) was plastered across the smaller prints after "telling all" about a night with David Gifford, the Tottenham Hotspur ball-juggler and shampoo analyst. She is being lined up as a "roving

sports reporter" for Al Fayed's Liberty Radio. Don't rove too near me.

## In the know

REPORTS that Ann Taylor, the new Chief Whip, was "worried sick" about being sucked in the reshuffle seem ill-informed. Taylor says she knew about her appointment in advance. "I came down on Sunday and spent most of the afternoon and evening with Tony," she confides. "He'd more or less made up his mind about the Cabinet jobs.



but we discussed some of the junior posts." She celebrated over a pizza with her 14-year-old daughter, Isabel. "I told her not to tell anyone. Not even her Dad".

## Pooh Corner

AS members of the Garrick Club await an extraordinary general meeting next week to determine what to do with the Winnie the Pooh windfall from Walt Disney for its quarter share of A.A. Milne's estate, the overwhelming majority disdain an RAC-style share-out of the £40 million.

That was why eminent journalist Alexander Chancellor had a frosty reception last week when he turned up for lunch after writing in *The Daily Telegraph* criticising a chairman's letter stating that the club was setting up a charitable trust rather than opting for a share-out supposedly of up to £39,000 each.

Chancellor decided not to stay for lunch after being told that at least £15 million was needed for renovation and any share-out would be subject to tax. "His article was riddled with errors and he breached club confidentiality," muttered one senior member. "His knuckles will be rapped."

JASPER GERARD



ROBERT REDFORD, the de-crowned King of Hollywood, thinks he is descended from a more noble line of monarchs. Redford, whose father worked as an Edinburgh milkman before emigrating in 1936, claims he has the blood of the Stewart kings coursing through his veins. The Scottish Tartans Society dismisses this as "foolish".

The House of Stewart, founded by Robert II in 1371 and later conjoined with the House of Stuart, has an embattled history, with Charles I (pictured) losing his head and James II being rudely de-

throned in 1688. It is just the sort of heritage that Redford would want to draw on. The Tartans Society is less sure. "The Redfords are descended from the Innes clan," insists one spokesman. "I can't see how Redford and Stewart get together. That rings danger bells around here because most people then think they're going to wear the Royal Stewart."

Perhaps Redford feels a kinship with the usurper James II. As Robert Burns wrote of the Stewart: "unroof'd their palace stands; Their sceptre fall'n to other hands."





## BUCCANEERING BROWN

A Chancellor who wants to see risk better rewarded

After seeing his allies scattered by the reshuffle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has hit the ground spinning. In the past week, Gordon Brown has given three lengthy interviews designed to underline his continuing dominance of this Government's policy agenda. In the most substantial of them so far, he has outlined to Peter Riddell and Philip Webster his ambitions for this autumn's Budget and beyond. The Chancellor who has made Prudence his maiden vow seeks to embrace Lady Luck.

Mr Brown wants to reward those who make their own good fortune by taking a chance. He hopes enterprising risk-takers will be the main beneficiaries of future tax and capital market reforms. Under Margaret Thatcher it was the Department of Trade and Industry which was styled the Department for Enterprise. On the basis of his words this morning, Mr Brown clearly wants that mantle for the Treasury.

The comparative failure of British industry to innovate and improve productivity has been a consistent theme of the Chancellor's. He has invited Britain's bosses to reflect on the nation's inability to match US and European levels of productivity, while also thinking aloud on the failure of competition policy to give the British consumer a better deal.

The most productive policy for business, as Ireland has found, is a tax regime which leaves as much as possible in the pocket of the investor. The harmonisation of tax rates, which other EU nations are pushing as a necessary accompaniment to economic and monetary union, is of greater concern than any existing impediment to investment.

Re-engineering the tax system to reward risk is wholly desirable. But fine-tuning taxes to privilege one form of economic activity over another is always, itself, a risk. It can be construed as picking winners by other means. The best tax reform is the lowering of taxes all round, leaving private individuals to direct wealth and energy

where they discern the greatest rewards. The Chancellor is at pains, especially when discussing welfare reform, to stress that he is not a "tax and spend" throwback. But the level of expenditure he authorised in his Comprehensive Spending Review, and the limited portion dedicated to debt repayment, limits his capacity to cut taxes in the future.

Whatever the criticisms which may, legitimately, be directed at the Chancellor it must be acknowledged that his emphasis on enterprise, and his crusade to improve productivity, only underline how difficult it is to pigeonhole a mercurial minister. His rhetoric on competition is deeply felt and authentically liberal. Mr Brown is, in spirit, the consumer's friend and the scourge of corporate complacency. He deserves constructively critical support in his fight against business's bureaucrats and his wish better to champion business's buccaneers.

But not all of the Chancellor's views chime with his aspiration to make Britain a buccaneering nation. His analysis of Britain's history suggests there are potential contradictions in his stance. In his developing rhetoric of "Britishness" the Chancellor is attempting an ambitious synthesis of the values which animate new Labour, a defence of the Union against nationalism, and a case for European integration in the national interest. The Chancellor is seeking to reclaim Britishness from those he believes defined it too narrowly in the Eighties as a freebooting identity, in the spirit of Elizabethan privateers and Georgian adventurers.

Mr Brown can build an impressive case, but it runs counter to those strains in the national character which nurture the spirit of enterprise and risk he seeks to encourage. The Chancellor is, however, certainly right in recognising that any argument over Britain's future in Europe cannot be conducted purely on the dusty plains of economics. The debate has a long way to go, but Mr Brown should be applauded for taking the risk to initiate it.

## A PEOPLE BETRAYED

Cambodia's pain is not at an end

The people have spoken. On July 26, 90 per cent of the electorate went to the polls in Cambodia's second general election. Preliminary results suggest that the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) — led by Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, but since last July *de facto* the only one — has won the greatest number of seats but not enough to rule out the possibility of a coalition. Without even waiting for the counting to end, the UN-co-ordinated joint international observer group pronounced the elections "free and fair". Demands for a recount by Opposition leaders Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Mr Sam Rainsy reflect discomfiture at the strength of the CPP vote as much as they indicate knowledge of widespread fraud.

Though the Opposition allegations have yet to be proven, the CPP dominated the election machinery and claimed results close to its pre-political predictions. But no matter how clean Mr Hun Sen's electoral hands prove to be, how honest the polling or how inviolate the ballot-boxes, no election conducted in the context of Cambodia's recent political history can be genuinely free and fair.

Mr Hun Sen lost the 1993 UN-supervised elections to Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC. He refused to give up power. Civil war was avoided by making him Second Prime Minister to Prince Ranariddh. For the next four years, FUNCINPEC and the CPP wooed the Khmer Rouge for support in the 1998, winner-takes-all, election. FUNCINPEC's success with the Khmer Rouge led Mr Hun Sen to depose Prince Ranariddh in a bloody coup last July; opposition officials were summarily executed. Driven into exile, Prince

Ranariddh was only allowed to return, and campaign this year, once convicted of Mr Hun Sen's trumped-up charges of treason. But the lead-up to the election saw the Opposition denied free access to the media and its activists intimidated and murdered.

The international community gave its tacit approval. It brokered the deal which authorised Mr Hun Sen's version of the coup in return for a contested election, thus legitimising 100 extra-judicial executions. In saying the elections should go ahead, even though its intimidation and media access conditions had not been met, and issuing so precipitate a judgment of the electoral process, the international community has also made clear that any election will do.

Whatever happens, Mr Hun Sen is likely to win out. By law, a government needs the approval of two thirds of parliament, thus guaranteeing a coalition. Yet Mr Hun Sen will only accept a deal where the powerful ministries are in CPP hands. If the coalition he proposes is not accepted, Mr Hun Sen has made it clear that he is ready to set aside the constitution and rule alone.

Perhaps unconsciously, the international community appears to have made a tacit bargain with Mr Hun Sen: as long as he holds elections, he is free to manipulate them. It is likely that Cambodia, desperate for stability and aware that Mr Hun Sen's desire to hold on to power is greater than anyone else's readiness to break it, voted for him anyway. The irony is that by undermining the process, Mr Hun Sen may have denied himself a legitimate victory. The result is that the Cambodian people have once more been betrayed.

## TIME TO TELL ALL

Clinton needs to make a televised confession

Few American political candidates have been more efficient on television than Bill Clinton. He made the most of presidential debates with George Bush, Ross Perot and Bob Dole. The debate that now matters is raging within the White House. The President's political advisers are urging him to schedule a television address and explain what exactly was his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Mr Clinton's legal team are telling him to maintain his silence. The President is both a lawyer and a politician, the world's second and third oldest professions. The time has come for him to choose between them.

Television has been the natural medium for American politicians to unburden their souls unto a nation. Richard Nixon's televised reply to seize allegations in 1952 saved his career. Admittedly his declarations 20 years later that there was no "whitewash in the White House" and "I am not a crook" were not quite so successful. It is hard to imagine what could save a President implicated in the cover-up of a burglary. If President Kennedy could use the airwaves to acknowledge responsibility for the Bay of Pigs and President Carter did the same after the botched attempt to rescue hostages in Iran, President Clinton must be able to analyse his own libido.

There are doubtless some traditionalists who would regard this as rather undignified but the President has already accepted the need to use television as a public confession

box. He, or rather more accurately his wife, designed an interview on 60 Minutes to deal with another sexual allegation six years ago. He is also an acknowledged master of this particular media art form. When Mr Clinton tells Americans that he "feels their pain", most of them enjoy it so much that they forget that he caused their hardship in the first place.

There are inevitable risks that would come with such an appearance. Even Mike McCurry, the President's own press secretary, has conceded that Mr Clinton's relationship with his former intern was probably "complicated". An admission of even a passing intimate liaison would stand at odds with the President's forthright declaration in January that he had "not had sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky". He would, in effect, be pleading guilty to both legal and political perjury.

The anxiety of his attorneys is entirely understandable. However, Mr Clinton will have to make a choice between the truth and further floundering when he answers question in front of the grand jury. Whatever that testimony is will inevitably seep out into the public domain. The real issue in "Zippengate" is not sex or even lies but obstruction of justice. If the President has not tried to impede the law, then an honest admission of his private weaknesses will not hurt him. If he has conspired to block the truth then he should use the airtime for an entirely different speech.

## Brown's control of the economy

From Mr S. H. White

Sir, Professor Robin Marris's perceptive article (Business Analysis, July 31) concerning the all-too-obvious misreading of figures on the economy by the Treasury and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee inevitably concludes by asking why new Labour are "such chronic macro pessimists".

May I suggest that there is almost certainly a hidden agenda. By forcing the Bank to target an inflation rate of 2.5 per cent, a level which is open to much debate and almost certainly overstates real core inflation, the concealed hand of the Government's European policy is being seen.

By forcing a tightening of policy at a time when, as Professor Marris argues, no such policy is required (rather the reverse) Gordon Brown is ensuring that the economy declines to such an extent that, leading up to the crucial 2001-02 period, convergence of growth and interest rates would fit with the conditions found within the euro zone. Yes again, as a result of a fixation with the European issue, great harm has already been and will further be done to all aspects of the British economy.

To remove all such charges of the concealed hand, if the Bank of England is to be truly independent, let it be similar to that of the US Federal Reserve Bank, which is not given any specific inflation target.

Yours faithfully,  
S. H. WHITE,  
21 Lodge,  
Kensington Park Gardens, W11 3HA,  
July 31.

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Your report of July 28 on the appointment of Mr Nick Brown as the new Agriculture Minister, suggesting that his close relationship with the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be an asset when competing for Treasury cash to spend on agriculture, indicates a misunderstanding of the true significance of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

The CSR allocated £11.13 billion of public spending for the three years 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Broadly, all this has been allocated to individual departments, with the exception of £12 billion held as a contingency reserve. This contingency reserve, at barely 1 per cent of the public spending concerned, is only around one third of the size of the average equivalent contingency reserve held over the last 15 years or so. It will easily be swallowed up in emergencies, and will certainly not be available for any ongoing Ministry of Agriculture programmes.

The key point to grasp about the CSR is that all the money the Government is hoping to collect before the next election has already been allocated. The cupboard is bare, and there is nothing left for departmental ministers to squabble over.

Yours faithfully,  
M. C. FITZPATRICK  
(Head of Economics),  
Chantrey Vellacott,  
Russell Square House,  
10-12 Russell Square, WC1B 5LF,  
July 28.

## Tory values

From the Reverend Stephen Trotter

Sir, Mr Tim Montgomerie's attempt (letter, July 29) to claim the Church of England as a political ally, on the grounds that its moral teaching is further from new Labour than it was from the Conservatives, is bound to fail both in theory and as a matter of history.

It became hard to know what exactly was conservative about his party during its 18 years in government, except perhaps its defence of inherited privilege in the House of Lords. It was his party which introduced Sunday trading, relaxed the time-limit for abortions, and undermined support for the family through the taxation and benefits system. Its current leader supports the campaign to lower the age of homosexual consent to 16.

Although several honourable exceptions remain within the Shadow Cabinet, it is Mr Montgomerie's party which has become the radical player on the Westminster scene. Its continuing obsession with free market ideology has reduced a party which once upheld this country's Christian tradition to one which appears to know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN TROTTER,  
The Rectory, Humfrey Lane,  
Boughton, Northampton NN2 8RQ,  
July 29.

## Longer in the tooth

From Mr Maurice Taylor

Sir, Over the age of 50, age comparisons are seldom much fun but to be reminded that one is actually older than *The Beano* (report, July 30) is even less comical. Is there anyone left who might be compared to the tenth edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1902)? They would at least have something to be smug about.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE TAYLOR,  
22 Claremont Hill,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1RD.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Need to target mental health spending more effectively

From Professor Sir David Goldberg

Sir, The news of new mental health spending (reports, July 30) is welcome but there must be considerable anxiety about what it will be spent on. The proposed network of local medium-secure units will consume a large proportion of any new resource, and there are many more deserving things on which to spend new money.

The lack of such accommodation arises because of a shortage of adequate supported accommodation at much lower levels of security. Care in small institutions can be just as harmful as in large ones, and the newly available resources could be spent more profitably on improving services for the vast majority of severely ill patients whose behaviour poses no threat to public safety.

What is needed is an adequate number of beds in hospital and community settings and enough staff to provide a range of specialised mental health care in the community and in primary-care settings. In large cities outside London, health authorities spend about 2.1 per cent less than their allocation on mental health, while London authorities spend slightly more than their allocation. The higher London spend is probably because they have far more mentally disordered offenders and more referrals to the private sector, leaving much less for the remaining mental health needs of Londoners.

What is needed is some mechanism

for guaranteeing that both health and social services spend appropriate amounts on mental health care, proportional to the needs of the population they serve.

Yours truly,  
DAVID GOLDBERG (Director,  
Research and Development),  
Institute of Psychiatry,  
De Crespigny Park,  
Denmark Hill, SE5 8AF,  
July 30.

From the Chief Executive of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers

Sir, Community and psychiatric services will work effectively only if relatives and partners who look after somebody at home are recognised as a vital part of community care. Major decisions in mental health cases often affect the carer. But carers are frequently excluded from the decision-making process. It is too often taken for granted that they will provide the support needed, even if this involves putting their own life on hold, or even at risk. For care to be effective, all partners involved must take part in the discussion.

If the new package is to work, carers must be listened to. They should also know whom to contact if the situation deteriorates.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BUTLER,  
Chief Executive, The Princess  
Royal Trust for Carers,  
142 Minorities, EC3N 1LS.

From Dr Edward Petch

Sir, Frank Dobson's initiatives, long overdue, fail to mention the very large number of mentally disordered people in prison — approximately two thirds of men in the remand population and one third of those in the sentenced population, according to research carried out by the Institute of Psychiatry.

A substantial number of these prisoners require transfer to hospital for assessment and treatment, but in many cases lack of resources at a local level prevents admission.

Some of these individuals have already demonstrated their capacity for violent or destructive behaviour, yet at the end of their period in custody they are released into the community. Many do not receive the care which they require, and this potentially puts them and the public at risk.

Perhaps closer liaison between the Department of Health and the Home Office, assisted by the new "enforcer", Dr Jack Cunningham, might result in initiatives to improve the lot of this vulnerable and disadvantaged group.

Yours faithfully,  
E. PETCH  
(Forensic psychiatrist),  
c/o Institute of Psychiatry,  
De Crespigny Park,  
Denmark Hill,  
London SE5 8AF,  
July 29.

## Labour policy on housing provision

From the Deputy Prime Minister

Sir, It is a pity that your leading article of July 31, headed "Green, unpleasant land: Prescott's victory threatens rural England", chose to base opinions on fiction rather than fact.

The forecast that 4.4 million new households will form between 1991 and 2016 was published in 1995 (and was endorsed yesterday in the report of the Environment and Transport Select Committee as being "the best one there is"). There is no intention that development should take place "largely in green belt land", and there is no inconsistency between our policy and the decision to direct West Sussex County Council to increase the housing provision figure in their structure plans.

The select committee supports our clearly stated view that, if the countryside, including land designated as green belt, is to be protected, more housing must be provided within existing urban areas, primarily on recycled, previously used sites. We have already acted to increase the previous Government's target for brownfield development from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. However, the select committee also makes it very clear that the Government has a responsibility to ensure that sufficient homes are built.

The new approach we have devised for determining the level of housing provision in local authority development plans will be more "bottom

up", transparent and inclusive, allowing for greater flexibility in the use made of the household projections. As the select committee says: "Local authorities' and regional planning conferences' new powers must be exercised with responsibility."

It will remain the task of the Secretary of State to oversee the system. I have demonstrated flexibility in the decisions I have taken not to intervene in plans which have housing figures below the guidance level in Herefordshire and Dorset. In the case of West Sussex the proposed under-provision was 25 per cent. I considered this was unsatisfactory and issued a direction.

West Sussex challenged this in the courts (report, July 31) — not the other way round, as your leading article implies. The High Court has held that I acted reasonably in reaching this view.

We will now develop our policy guidance, taking account of the recommendations of the select committee, to which we will respond in due course. But intelligent debate about the issues is not helped by misleading headlines such as yours.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PRESCOTT,  
Department of the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions,  
Bland House,  
Bressenden Place, SW1E 5DU,  
July 31.

## Shot for cowardice

From Sir John Baynton, MC

Sir, I believe the Government was wrong to refuse a pardon to the 306 men who were shot in the Great War (report, July 25; letter, July 30). It is a pity to have been so legalistic when a generous gesture would have been welcomed by so many, in particular by wartime veterans like myself.

My experience in ten months with the 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regiment in North West Europe in 1944-45 was that we had all been given different measures of courage. Experience taught us about ourselves and our limitations, but also the sort of tasks or enterprises particular members of the unit were capable of.

The common factor was that, whatever our given quantity of courage, it would be diminished and eroded by continuing periods of anxiety and danger. The need for periodical rest and recuperation was recognised by the rule that you had to take your allotted leave on the due date, whatever operations you might miss as a result.

I do not think that people who get to the end of their tether and can take no more should be punished, much less shot at dawn, pour encourager les autres.

Yours truly,  
J. K. BOYNTON,  
40 High Sheldon,  
Sheldon Avenue, N6 4NU,  
July 27.

## Drinking time

From Mr Frederic Cassin

Sir, Your report (July 22) about the proposal to reform the licensing laws and extend public house hours reminded me of an anecdote about the great American humorist, Will Rogers.

In 1933, after the repeal of Prohibition in America, the New York City fathers, in their wisdom, set the bar closing hours at 4am. Citizens, who had been able to drink around the clock when liquor was illegal, complained about this. But Rogers said: "If you can't get drunk by 4am, you ain't really trying."

Yours faithfully,  
F. CASSIN,  
95 Cliftonpark Avenue,  
Belfast BT14 6DS,  
July 28.

## Living wills

From the General Secretary of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Sir, In their rejection of the Law Commission's recommendations to give statutory powers to living wills (letter, July 21; see also letter, July 28) Lord McColl of Dulwich *et al* quote the view of the select committee of the House of Lords on medical ethics that "progressive development and the ultimate acceptance of the notion that some treatment is inappropriate should make it unnecessary to consider the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration".

It is not clear from this statement who "ultimately accepts" the inappropriateness of certain medical treatments, although I suspect it would be doctors. This would allow them to impose their own particular brand of ethical or religious beliefs on patients.

In contrast, living wills permit patients, who I contend are best placed to make decisions about their own lives, to refuse life-prolonging treatment in advance. They would deem such treatment inappropriate in a situation when they are unlikely to recover from an illness or impairment involving severe distress or incapacity for rational existence.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN OLIVER,  
General Secretary,  
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,  
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8 5PE.

## Bus service

From the Managing Director of Buffalo Travel

Sir, Whilst I do not think that the Department of Transport would approve of us allowing Johanna Lockett's husband to dismantle and rebuild our buses and coaches at weekends (letter, July 29), polishing is a different matter.

Yours faithfully,  
TIM CECIL,  
Managing Director, Buffalo Travel,  
Enterprise Way, Farnwick,  
Bedfordshire MK45 5BW,  
July 29.

## Leaning Tower

From Professor James Beck and Professor Piero Pierotti

Sir, The courteous letter from Professor John B. Burland (July 23) concerning the heated controversy over the Leaning Tower of Pisa is most welcome. Nonetheless, your report of July 18 ("Experts' warning over best angle") referred to certain of our observations which clearly justify our criticism of the commission in charge. These are:

1. The proposed steel cables represent the fourth "provisional" solution projected for the Tower between 1990 and today.
2. The definitive project (the one outlined by Professor Burland) does not exist as yet. The experiments to verify whether it can be put into operation have been postponed to the beginning of 1999, by which time the present commission's assignment will be over. The commission is consuming more time for the approval of the project than was required for moving the temple of Abu Simbel. Disagreements within the commission itself are not a minor reason for such delays.

Sincerely,  
JAMES BECK,  
Columbia University,  
PIERO PIEROTTI,  
University of Pisa,  
Edelboden Superior 12,  
10020 Gressoney la Trinité  
(Aosta), Italy.  
jamesbeck@aol.com  
July 31.

## Stage directions

From Mr Michael Horne

Sir, Early in 1947 I was waiting outside the Academy cinema in Oxford Street on a rainy evening for a girl who in fact never turned up.

I was wearing my recently acquired "demob suit" (tweed jacket, grey flannels) underneath an ill-fitting raincoat that had also been provided by a grateful King and country (letters, July 23, 27, 31). The trilby hat issued had blown away the previous week and I'd taken to wearing a black beret.

Because I'd run from Tottenham Court Road Tube to be on time and was hot, I was holding the beret in my hand. The girl was already 15 minutes late and my facial expression was probably beseeching of fate.

In any case, a passer-by suddenly tossed a sixpenny piece into the beret. Somewhat bemused I left it there, and by the time I finally gave the girl up 25 minutes later and went into the cinema alone I'd gained a full half-crown — more than enough to pay for my customary seat in the front stalls.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL HORNE,  
The Carriage House, The Street,  
Morston near Holt NR25 7AA.

## Trade description

From Mr David T. Evans

Sir, In a recently received catalogue from a noted specialist record shop I see for sale "the original Reykjavik cast in *The Little Shop of Horrors*". Would that all shops could be as candid about their wares.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID T. EVANS,  
22 North Gardner Street,  
Glasgow G11 5BT,  
August 2.

## Interesting condition

From Mr Allan Shore

Sir, I have received a letter from the woman consumer adviser for Daz soap powder. It starts: "Dear Mr Shore, if like me, you're a mum ..."

Yours perplexedly,  
ALLAN SHORE,  
36 Wandale Road, SW17 7DW,  
August 1.





## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE August 1: The Duke of Edinburgh today attended a session of the XVII International Congress of Comparative Law at the University of Bristol and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr James Tidmarsh).

His Royal Highness, Admiral, this evening opened the new Club House and attended a Dinner at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Rope Walk, Hamble, Southampton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Christopher Pagan).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Very Reverend James Harkness (Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland) at the Funeral of the Reverend Thomas Nicol (Extra Chaplain to The Queen) which was held at Perth Crematorium this morning.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Peter Ord.

CLARENCE HOUSE August 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Brigadier Garry Barnett at the Funeral of the Reverend Thomas Nicol, which took place at Perth Crematorium this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE August 2: Sir Michael Oswald was received by The Queen today when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral, this morning visited the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Rope Walk, Hamble, Southampton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Christopher Pagan).

## Nature notes

ON lakes and rivers, young coots are growing larger; they have silvery throats, and the characteristic white shield above the beak is beginning to form. They are still swimming with their parents, whose sharp alarm cries sound like exploding balloons. Mute swans doze on the riverbank with their grey cygnets, all of them lying in a pool of moulded feathers. Families of sedge warblers are feeding in the dense foliage of waterside willows: the young birds come out more freely than their parents, though they flick their wings uneasily. A few last swallows are screaming high

in the sky, but most are now on their way to Africa.

Great hairy willow-herb is now very abundant in damp places: it generally has deep pink flowers, but sometimes clumps of plants with white petals can be found. There are also white foxgloves in some woods. The yellow flowers of hop trefoil grow close to the ground: when the flower heads die and turn brown they look like tiny hop cones. There are bright red berries on the twining honeysuckles, and on the cuckoo spit spikes in the ditches. White admiral butterflies glide over the pink flowers of hemip agrimony. DJM

## THE TIMES

Wednesday August 3 1998

## "THE COWS WERE VERY FRIENDLY"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir—Last week I wrote about the children's country holidays fund. I am writing to you today to say that the fund has been set up. I am writing to you today to say that the fund has been set up.

AA Milne's letter to the Editor appealing for funds

## City children are still following in Pooh's footsteps

BY HELEN RUMBLOW

IN A letter to *The Times* 60 years ago today, A.A. Milne complained that he had many young rivals who could describe the countryside much better than his own efforts with Pooh and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood.

They were London children who had been given their first glimpse of life outside the city, in a two-week holiday, by one



Off to the country in 1930

Canon Barnett. The Children's Country Holidays Fund will send its two million young Londoners to the country by 2000.

"They madden me, these children. When they come back from their one little glimpse of the country, they write of it as I would wish to write—and know that I never shall," Milne said in a letter to the Editor appealing to readers to donate money to the charity. "I hope they have been saving up," he wrote.

He quoted from a young writer's letter, which he called the "Log of a Naturalist": "The cows were very friendly. I looked at one cow and he stared at me. I expect he knew that I was a stranger."

Another he dubbed a "prim little girl", who wrote: "The sea was nice, but the country attracted my attention mostly because it was quieter and more becoming."

Milne also admired one young correspondent who wrote simply: "I had never been in the country before and I liked sitting in the field and



Twins Samantha and Rebecca Frampton, with Pooh, head for the country at the weekend

watching the great clouds roll along... everything was happy."

The scheme began as The Country Holidays Fund to provide fresh air to all London children. In 1939 it packed 3,500 children off to the seaside with gas masks.

Every year it still sends around 1,000 children, who would not otherwise receive a break from the capital, to farms and activity camps.

They have lost none of the fresh writing style that Milne coveted. Host families still encourage children to write

down their observations, which in recent years have included: "I wonder who put the sea in and how they know when to stop. What time does the sea close at night?" and, "I am not drinking any milk from cows, I will only drink proper milk from bottles."

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.G.A. Brocklebank and Baroness Felicia van Pallandt

The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs C.W. Brocklebank, of Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk, and Felicia, youngest daughter of Baron and Baroness van Pallandt van Westervoort, of The Netherlands.

Mr T.A. Christie-Miller and Miss K.J.E. Morison

The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of Mr D.R. Christie-Miller and the late Mrs M.A.C. Christie-Miller, and Kate, daughter of Mr R.F. Morison and Mrs E.A. Morison, of London.

Mr R.K. Gray and Miss J.M. Capell

The engagement is announced between Ross, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Gray and Mrs Alison Thorpe, and Julia, younger daughter of the late Mr Geoffrey Capell and of Mrs Susan Jones.

Mr L.C. Richards and Miss A. Bone

The engagement is announced between Luke, eldest son of Mr Jeremy Richards, of South Kensington, and the late Brett Richards, and Amy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Bone, of Fulham and Treherbert.

Mr P.F. Thornberry and Miss N.B. Marnane

The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr P.G. Thornberry and the late Mrs Thornberry, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, and Nuala, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Marnane, of Drogheda, Co. Tipperary, Republic of Ireland.

Mr R.J.H. Walker and Miss S.B. Philander

The engagement is announced between Rupert, eldest son of the late Mr Colin Walker and of Mrs Walker, of Bramley, Surrey, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Philander, of Theodons Bois, Essex.

## Marriages

Mr P.H. Towse and Miss Sarah T. MacLeod

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, of Mr Peregrine H. Towse, son of Mr Simon and Lady Towse, of Lancashire, to Miss Sarah T. MacLeod, daughter of Mr William MacLeod, of Texas, and of Mrs Nicholas MacLeod, of North Yorkshire. Father Michael O'Halloran, SJ, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by William Howard, Clementine Grant, Alice Grant, Cosmo Grant, Elise French, Edmund French and Miss Joanna Prosser. Mr Philip Howard was best man.

A reception was held at Chiswick and the honeymoon will be spent in France.

Mr B.M.F. Branson and Miss N.V. Kenyon-Slaney

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Andrew's, Shifnal, Shropshire, of Mr Barnabas Branson, younger son of Mr Martin Branson, of Battersea, London, and of Mrs Judy Branson, of Eastleach, Gloucestershire, to Miss Natasha Kenyon-Slaney, only daughter of the late Mr Robin Kenyon-Slaney and of Mrs Peter Allen, of Shifnal. The Rev Graham Powell officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her elder brother, Mr Rupert Kenyon-Slaney, was attended by Anna Hamilton, Sophia Jameson, Zara Lewin, Stefanie Otto, Frances van Oes, Emily van Oes and Lordovic Compton. Mr Seamus Moorhead was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Bali and Sumatra.

## School news

Mosely House School: Old pupils of Mosely House School, Parkgate, South Wales, are invited to attend a Reunion Lunch on Saturday, September 19, at the School. Full details from the Secretary on 0151 336 1010.

## Service dinners

Intake 21 RMAS Officers of Rhine Company, Intake 21. The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, dined on Saturday at the School of Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, to mark the fortieth anniversary of their commissioning. Major W.R.N. Ladds presided. Captain E.S. Colson and Captain P.D. Morgan also spoke. Brigadier P.E. Hutchings and Captain A. Holloway were the guests.

## Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force

The Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Colonel J. Crowden, was the guest of honour at Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force dining in their annual camp, during their annual camp, at Theford, Norfolk. Colonel Derek Bristow, County Commandant, presided.

## High Commissioner

Mr Stuart Laing to be High Commissioner to Brunel from October. He succeeds Mr Ivan Callan who will be moving to the new Diplomatic Service appointment.

## Latest wills

Katherine Mary Waterhouse, of Putters Bar, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,314,611 net.

She left £10,000 to the Salvation Army and £1,000 each to the RNLi and RFA.

Oliver Mary Willett, of Leatherhead, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,027,032 net.

She left £10,000 to Princess Alice Hospice, Epsom, Surrey, and an Ar Bikes (Marshall Hospital), Fulham Road, radiotherapy research fund.

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## Britannia Royal Naval College

Northumbria: T. I. Harrison, Sandwell Upper School, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire; C. S. Taylor, Wotton Bassett, Wiltshire; J. Vincent, The St Albans Grammar School, St Albans, Hertfordshire; J. Young, Glenburn High School, Westmeath, Ireland.

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## Birthdays today

Sir John Anson, former civil servant, 68; Mr Robert Ayling, chief executive, British Airways, 52; Air Marshal Sir Peter Baisro, 72; Mr Tony Bennett, singer, 72; Mr Steven Berkoff, actor, director and writer, 61; Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander Boswell, former Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Guernsey, 70; Sir Paul Bryan, former MP, 85; Sir Elizabeth Chilver, former Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 84; Mr Peter Easterby, racehorse trainer, 66; Mr John Gifford, racehorse trainer, 57; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC, former chairman, Financial Reporting Review Panel, 53; Baroness James of Holland Park, 78; Professor Anthony Jones, former Rector, Royal College of Art, 54; Professor Sir Natar Mallick, former president, Royal Association, 63; Sir David A. Scott, former diplomat, 79; Mr Martin Sheen, actor, 58; Miss Sue Slippson, former director, National Council for One Parent Families, 49; Mr Jack Strain, Secretary of State for the Home Department, 52; Sir Jack Taylor, former diplomat, 74; Sir George Waller, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 87; the Right Rev Dr R.P. Wilson, KCVO, former Bishop of Chichester, 93; Mr Terry Wogan, broadcaster, 60.

University news: Stirling University: Dr Doris Littlejohn has been appointed Chairman of Stirling University Court from August 1, 1999, for one year in the first instance, in succession to Dr David Miller.

Service: Britannia RN College Dartmouth: The September 1968 Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth Entry, with their families and friends, marked the 30th anniversary with a barbecue in the college grounds yesterday, by permission of Commodore Roy Clare. Commander Andrew Welch presided.

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## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John (Orator) Henley, preacher, -Melton Mowbray, 1692; James Wyatt, architect, Burton Constable, Staffordshire, 1746; Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl Stanhope, politician and man of science, London, 1753; Sir Joseph Paxton, gardener and designer of the Crystal Palace, Milton Bryant, Bedfordshire, 1801; Eliza Otis, pioneer of the safety lift, -Halifax, Vermont, 1811; Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister of Australia, 1913-04, 1905-08 and 1909-10; Melbourne, 1856; Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, Prime Minister 1923, 1924-29 and 1935-37, -Lower Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire, 1867; Havelock VII, King of Norway 1905-57, Charlottenlund, 1872; Rupert Brooke, poet, Rugby, 1887; Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland 1949-81, Zuzela, near Warsaw, 1901.

DEATHS: King James II of Scotland, reigned 1437-60, killed, Roxburgh Castle, 1460; Grinling Gibbons,



# OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR DAVID FULKER

David W. Fulker, Professor of Statistical Genetics at the Institute of Psychiatry, London University, died from cancer of the pancreas on July 9 aged 61. He was born on March 8, 1937.

David Fulker did not publish his first scientific paper until he was nearly 30 but he went on to become one of the world's leading figures in behaviour genetics. At the time of his death he was still producing some of the most exciting and innovative work on the borders between quantitative and molecular genetics. From a modest background — he was the son of a Welsh former miner — Fulker grew up in London and did not immediately appear destined for the higher reaches of academic life. On leaving school he trained as a teacher and then worked variously as a chemistry teacher and a photographer before enrolling for a BSc in psychology at Birkbeck College, London University. He graduated, aged 27, with first-class honours and then did something highly unconventional for a British psychologist in the 1960s: he embarked on a career in genetics.

His masters degree at Birmingham introduced him to the biometrical approach, the use of statistical methods to assess the relative contributions of inheritance and environment to continuous traits (such as, in humans, height, weight or blood pressure). The

genetics of such traits tends to be complicated, and the work contrasted with much of the rest of genetic research at that time, which tended to focus on simple Mendelian (ie, present or absent) characteristics.

Fulker's first major study, carried out under the supervision of J. L. Jinks, was on mating speed in fruit flies. It was published in *Science* in 1966 and immediately had an impact on the thinking of behavioural geneticists. Fulker went on to complete his PhD in Birmingham, and with Jinks published in 1970 a paper in *Psychological Bulletin* which proposed extending the biometrical genetic approach to the study of human behaviour. It proved a classic in the field.

Fulker remained at Birmingham University as a lecturer in the psychology department until 1975, when he was offered a post at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. He was appointed senior lecturer at the Institute and director of its animal laboratories at the Bethlem Royal Hospital.

His years at the Institute were highly productive and he produced much important research, establishing that there is a substantial genetic influence on a wide variety of behaviours both in rodents and in man. But his work also showed that human traits, such as personality type or susceptibility to alcoholism or depression, depend on an interplay between genes and environment. These results were achieved by using new analy-



tical approaches developed in association with colleagues such as J. C. DeFries. By the early 1980s Fulker's international standing was unquestioned. In 1982 he was elected president of the Behaviour Genetics Association and in 1985 he became executive editor of the journal *Behavior Genetics*. However, by this time Fulker's field, always a very specialised one, had become unfashionable and rather neglected among academic psychologists in Britain. By contrast it was thriving in the United States, where research

funds were plentiful. In 1985 Fulker accepted a professorship at the University of Colorado's Institute for Behavioral Genetics at Boulder, one of the world's leading centres, and he moved there with his wife, Angela Elliot, and her daughter Katherine. In 1986, their own daughter Rosanna was born.

The family were soon settled and Fulker's reputation attracted research funds which enabled him to assemble a larger scientific team than had ever been feasible in Britain. He began working on a problem which had now become vital, how to combine biometrical or quantitative genetics with the burgeoning study of molecular genetics.

This was difficult enough in studies of animal behaviour, where experimenters could at least design breeding programmes to discover which piece of DNA is inherited along with what type of behaviour. With humans, the task was even more complex, because we have what is to geneticists the vexing habit of following our own breeding programmes. Fulker's solution was to adopt an approach based on regression analysis that he and DeFries had developed earlier to analyse twin studies.

With his former PhD student L. R. Cardon, Fulker showed that it was theoretically possible to detect those DNA markers that can predict similarities between pairs of siblings with respect to quanti-

tative traits. They went on, with others at the University of Colorado, to use the method to find a gene on chromosome 6 that contributes to reading difficulties.

Meanwhile in Britain, behaviour genetics had been rejuvenated. The Medical Research Council funded a new centre for social, genetic and developmental psychiatric research at the Institute of Psychiatry in London in 1995, under the directorship of Professor Sir Michael Rutter, and it began recruiting academic stars including several prominent Americans. Fulker was offered and accepted a new London chair in statistical genetics in 1996.

Greatly enthusiastic about his new position and still brimming with novel ideas about methods of identifying genes for behavioural traits, he seemed to be hitting his scientific peak as he was entering his seventh decade. Tragically, illness intervened and Britain was cheated of the benefit of a successful exercise in reversing the veying habit of following our own breeding programmes.

Friends and family will remember Fulker as an unassuming and kindly man who was invariably good company. Despite his intellect he was never intimidating — except perhaps for dinner party guests marvelling at his culinary skills and knowledge of wine, and wondering how they were going to repay his hospitality.

He leaves his widow, daughter and stepdaughter.

## ARNOLD LEVENE



Arnold Levene, pathologist, died on July 18 aged 73. He was born on December 7, 1924.

EARLY in his career Arnold Levene led the development of the frozen section technique for studying tumours in the surgical operating theatre, allowing pathologists to give surgeons a definitive diagnosis on the spot, and enabling them to perform appropriate surgery then and there. This avoided the common practice of having a second operation at a later date. His surgical training allowed Levene to co-operate fully in the solution of such problems, relieving patients of the worry of having to wait for a diagnosis.

A highly respected and internationally known pathologist, he remained active in private practice until his death, which came suddenly, on his way to the synagogue.

Arnold Levene qualified from University College Hospital, London, in 1948. He obtained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1954, but his surgical career was cut short by tuberculosis. Although he was allowed to return to work after many months, he was advised to abandon the stressful demands of surgery and work in another area of medicine. This brought about his switch to a career in pathology, with a more regulated pattern of life. His interest soon centred on morbid anatomy, as it was then known: that it is now known as surgical pathology is largely due to his efforts over the following decades.

He was ideally suited for this change of direction. Being a highly gifted intellectual, he soon became absorbed in this very academic branch of medicine. It took him to the Royal Marsden Hospital, where his ability was swiftly recognised by appointment to the consultant staff. He soon began work on his great contribution to the training of surgeons, by emphasising the neglected subject of surgical pathology. He established a junior hospital doctor's training post in his department, and scores of aspiring surgeons from all over the world were trained there over the years. He lectured widely on this matter and involved the Royal Colleges in his work.

Another area in which his expertise on tumour pathology was sought was in veterinary work, which involved him in liaison with the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals and the Royal Veterinary College for his PhD thesis on malignant melanoma in grey horses. Much of the research for this was carried out in association with the Horse Guards' barracks in London, where the

famous greys are housed. Visitors to his laboratory were greeted by an enormous horse's skull.

His other great strength was as a teacher. Being an eminently sensible and practical teacher, intolerant of humbug, he was in demand for the training programmes for the Royal College examinations. He had a vast collection of pathology material for this purpose (much of it kept on the shelves of his dining room at home), and to work with him on such sessions was an education and a pleasure.

He was an eloquent lecturer, and gave sparkling, impromptu talks. He was particularly proud of the occasion when he stood in for a missing speaker at a school prizegiving on "Diseases of Old Costs" — genuinely off-the-cuff.

For many years he was the coroner's pathologist for Beckenham and Bromley. He found this work fascinating because it brought him into contact with every level of society and every sort of behaviour. It also taught him great tact in dealing with relatives and friends of the deceased, and he knew the value to them of speed and efficiency in the performance of post-mortem examination. He was always particularly assiduous in helping the families of orthodox Jews, for whom a speedy burial is of great religious importance. To those who did not know his field of work and buttonholed him at parties asking for medical advice, he would offer a good autopsy at a reasonable price. (He always allowed his mother to believe that he was a surgeon, as she would not have considered pathology a nice job.)

Levene was frankly critical of pomposity, and forthright in his carefully considered opinions. This made him a formidable expert witness in medico-legal cases, as many barristers (and some judges) found to their cost. Being an internationally recognised authority on the subject of malignant melanoma, he was much involved with conference work and with the World Health Organisation. He was a gifted linguist, and when asked to chair a meeting in Italy he taught himself enough of the language from scratch in ten days to be able to do so in Italian.

With an encyclopaedic memory, he was passionate about literature, opera, wine, history, biology, zoology, horticulture and all areas of Jewish learning. He created beautiful gardens in London and in Somerset, in which he worked energetically until the very end of his life. He is survived by his wife Leatrice and their son and four daughters.

## CECIL MELLING

Cecil Melling, CBE, electrical engineer, died on July 10 aged 98. He was born on December 12, 1899.

CECIL MELLING was a leading influence in the development of electricity supply in Britain in the postwar era. Leaving his native Lancashire in the 1930s, he became borough electrical engineer of Luton in 1943 and on nationalisation in 1948 he was appointed the first chairman of the Eastern Electricity Board, the largest of the English boards. Appointed CBE in 1955 for his services to electricity supply, he moved in 1957 to the Electricity Council as a full-time member, and was deputy chairman from 1961 to 1965.

Melling was one of a generation of electrical engineers who saw the expansion of supply as a social and economic service to the nation as well as a commercial reality, and in his nine-year tenure at the Eastern Electricity Board he developed both organisation and staff to enable 500,000 new consumers and 12,000

farms to share its benefits, sometimes risking official censure in the drive to electrify the rural expanses of East Anglia. He was committed to consultation with staff and consumers, but at the same time took a strategic view of issues such as the expensive imbalance between day and night demand, which led him to introduce off-peak tariffs (against peer opposition) and to stimulate manufacturers to the commercial development of domestic storage heaters.

He was actively involved from his student days in the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He served as its President in 1962-63, and continued to support the development of the profession for the rest of his life, attending occasional gatherings well into his nineties. He was also president of a number of the industry's other associations and boards.

Cecil Thomas Melling was born in Wigan, and his family history offers a case-study in the 19th-century Nonconformist concept of social duty and obligation. His great-grandfather, once involved in build-

ing locomotives for Brunel, founded two Wigan ironworks whose success in the market for safer mining machinery supported a large extended family, many of whom figured in the life of Wigan and its Methodist churches.

Early life in this environment shaped Melling's attitudes of tolerance and liberal respect, mixed with a legacy of Edwardian formality. His later support of internationalism and the League of Nations from the standpoint of Manchester liberalism was followed in the 1930s by active membership of New Commonwealth, a society seeking to promote international law and order as war clouds gathered. Prudently discreet throughout his professional life, he remained a Liberal at heart and took a committed interest when one of his sons stood as a Liberal Democrat in the 1997 general election.

A "sticky child", he was condemned at 18 to the prospect of a short life by American military doctors. But after being passed by less cautious doctors after a year of college, he

joined the Royal Engineers and reported after officer training for his first posting at Chatham at 20 on Armistice Day, 1918, so earning one of the shortest of war records before returning to his studies.

Cecil Melling balanced admirably the engineering, economic and human aspects of his role — he was, in current parlance, a "hybrid manager" by character and instinct. He exercised authority always with a courtesy of habit, and was a firm but diplomatic negotiator. His retentive memory, whether for poetry or events, was a source of admiration to those closest to him throughout his life.

In his earlier days he played rugby and walked extensively in the Lakes, North Wales, and Scotland. In Snowdonia he met Ursula Thornburn, whom he married in 1929. Their first years together were tragically marred by the infant deaths of their first two children, but three other children followed. His wife died in 1989, shortly after their diamond wedding. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.



## LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER DOUGLAS WILLIAMS



Lieutenant-Commander Douglas Williams, wartime naval commander, died on July 2 aged 85. He was born on February 10, 1913.

AS Officer of the Watch off Madagascar in May 1942, Douglas Williams saved the aircraft carrier *HMS Indomitable* from being torpedoed. He spotted two tracks heading for the ship, made an immediate alteration of course and watched the torpedoes pass harmlessly by. He was proud that he did not lose any of the seven vessels he commanded.

The incident off Madagascar was one of three major amphibious landings — Oran and Sicily were the others — in which he was involved during a wartime career that included service with the Malta convoy, with Atlantic and Russian convoys, and the liberation of the Channel Islands.

He spent 46 years in the Merchant and Royal Navies, and served in 12 warships. He particularly treasured his time

under the command of outstanding officers such as Admiral Sir Max Horton and Admiral Tom Troubridge, from whom he learnt the strict code of behaviour that he passed on to others.

Charles Theodore Douglas Williams grew up in Surrey and was educated at the London Polytechnic in Regent Street. From an early age, he was keen to go to sea. When he was 16, his grandfather organised a working passage for him to New York aboard a Cunard liner. Later that year, 1929, he started work as a Merchant Navy cadet. After training with the Silver Line and trips on the Cunard Line, he volunteered for the Royal Naval Reserve and started training at HMS Drake and HMS Kintyre.

After serving in HMS *Fore-sight* and HMS *Rochester* as a lieutenant, he joined HMS *Indomitable* in July 1941, in which he took part in the invasion of Malta during the famous August 1942 and the invasion

of Sicily. In September 1943, he took command of HMS *Comet* and told his first ship's company: "It is not our job to die for our country. It is our job to make the Germans die for theirs." He spent nearly a year escorting Atlantic and Russian convoys until November 1944, when he took command of HMS *Beagle* and was promoted to lieutenant-commander.

In May 1945, the *Beagle* led the task force that liberated the Channel Islands, the German surrender being signed in Williams's cabin. This experience forged a bond of friendship with the islanders which Williams strengthened after the war, when he commanded four ships before spending a happy tour at RNAS Lissieuville as its first lieutenant.

From 1950 to 1952, Williams served in HMS *Triumph*, but he missed the informality of small ship life, and he subsequently became the Assistant Naval Attaché in the British Embassy in Tokyo.

After returning to Britain in 1957, he retired from the Navy and joined Shell Tankers UK. He pioneered for them what has since become the oil industry's standard system for training tanker officers. In 1966, while still working for Shell, he joined the Royal Naval Reserve at Plymouth and was awarded the Reserve Decoration.

In 1970, Williams retired to make his home at Tavistock in Devon, where service with Shell had taken him. For many years subsequently he did voluntary work for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and other charities. In 1972, he ran a temporary camp at Honiton, Devon, to resettle deported Ugandan Asians. He was a man with an irrepressible sense of humour and an insatiable interest in young people, and he invested great confidence in those close to him.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married during his years in Tokyo, and by their son and daughter.

## Latest wills

John George Buckley, of Marlborough, Brimscombe, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £659,677 net.

Irene Constance Dugdale, of Clifton, Bristol, left estate valued at £570,718 net.

Brian Edlington, of Beckingham, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £732,444 net.

Beryl Catherine George, of Cadeleigh, Tiverton, Devon, left estate valued at £522,931 net.

Mary Dorothy Gaffney, of Mallock, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £834,497 net. She left £500 each to RSPCA, Arthritis Care, and Richmond Social Club for the Blind. Sylvia Mary Green, of Cubbington, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, left estate

valued at £514,247 net. Nancy Doran Haine, of Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, left estate valued at £849,981 net.

John Alfred Hamer, farmer, of Llandrindod Wells, Powys, left estate valued at £653,081 net.

Lieselotte Hildegard Hann, of London NW11, left estate valued at £526,998 net.

Philip Sidney Medley Jones, of Bourne, Dorset, left estate valued at £705,127 net.

William George Ladbroke, of Hinton, Ipswich, left estate valued at £679,565 net. He left £5,000 to the PCC of St Nicholas, Hinton. Elizabeth Fanny Lemon, of Hordsham, West Sussex, left estate valued at £585,187 net.

Dorothy Joy Linton, of London NW4, left estate valued at £543,064 net.

Ernest McGinn, of Scawsby, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £582,433 net.

Clive Milton, of London W9, left estate valued at £670,895 net.

Hugh Noble, farmer, of East Barkwith, Lincoln, left estate valued at £526,781 net.

John Greenfield Ruddock, of Boothby Graffoe, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £552,015 net.

Marguerite Audrey Salway, of Overton, Ludlow, Shropshire, left estate valued at £538,445 net. She left £500 to both the Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (Shelton) and the Friends of Os-

westry Orthopaedic Hospital. Granville Maynard Sharp, of Hassocks, West Sussex, left estate valued at £560,029 net.

Elsie Mildred Sutcliffe, of Dunco, Towcester, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £612,645 net.

David Edward Geoffrey Thomas, of London SW15, left estate valued at £774,992 net.

Pamela Tranfield, of Sheffield, left estate valued at £641,456 net.

Reginald Wilfrid Webster, of Over, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £669,111 net.

Brian George Weathers, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £560,260 net.

Phyllis Whiston-Barber, of Brick Wood, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £502,817 net.

## SWISS CELEBRATION

The celebration of the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the Swiss Confederation began yesterday and is being continued today throughout the country. The official fees, to which the Federal Council made a subvention of £10,000, have been held at Schwytz, the capital of the primitive canton, which not only gives the country its name but is also the home of the liberties of the people.

There was a long struggle between Bern, which had a claim, seeing that a fortnight hence the city will celebrate the 700th anniversary of its foundation, and Schwytz for the honour of being the centre for the national fees, but the Federal Assembly naturally decided in favour of the charming little spot so closely associated with the foundation of their Republic. The Austrian Minister attended, as did also those of France, Great Britain, Germany and Italy.

Yesterday the guests and delegates went in procession to church, where a solemn mass was celebrated. The chief

## ON THIS DAY

August 3, 1891

The Swiss nation celebrated the dawn of the seventh century of its history with an open-air pageant in a valley — "one of the most picturesque" in the entire Republic

feature of the celebration was a historical play, which was performed yesterday afternoon under very trying circumstances both for actors and audience, heavy rain falling at intervals.

Upon the occasion of the second performance, which took place this morning in splendid weather, all the beauties of the valley of Schwytz, lit up by brilliant sunshine, were seen at their best. The play was simply an attempt to portray some of the principal events of

Swiss history, to glorify the freedom and liberty which the people enjoy, and to show how the Confederation had developed from three primitive cantons to 22.

GAMBLING AT MONTE CARLO Mr Wells, the Englishman who had so extraordinary a run of luck at the gaming tables here, winning over £20,000 at roulette, continues to be favoured by the same good fortune. Finding the luck turning against him, he had the prudence to quit the table at which he had been so assiduously playing day after day from the opening of the Casino till its close. Before leaving the building, however, he risked a few stakes at another game, trente-et-quarante, and, winning each, continued to play till he had further increased his gains by the sum of 160,000l., or close upon £6,400. Mr Wells at trent-et-quarante follows the same system that proved so successful in his case at roulette — the famous "coup des trois" — that is to say, following the luck until he has won thrice in succession, and then withdrawing the accumulated stake.







DAY AUGUST 3 1998

RADIO & TV

Preview: How a gardening...  
...my life. BBC2 7.30p  
...fictional and real...  
...reasons. writes Pa...  
Page 42

OPINION

Buccaneering Brown...  
...any argument over...  
...in Europe can...  
...patch on the...  
...no music... Page

A people betrayed

...that by under...  
...and phases Mr. H...  
...and forced a...  
...Page

Time to tell all

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...a lawyer...  
...second...  
...than to ch...  
Page

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

...the failed...  
...and...  
...will...  
Page

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

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......  
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Page

JOHN GLEDHILL

......  
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Page

CONTINUED

......  
......  
......  
Page

LETTER

......  
......  
......  
Page

THE PINK

......  
......  
......  
Page

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

LINE HONOURS

Sails fill at Cowes Week

PAGE 29

DARK DAYS

What has happened to the mighty All Blacks?

PAGE 31

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

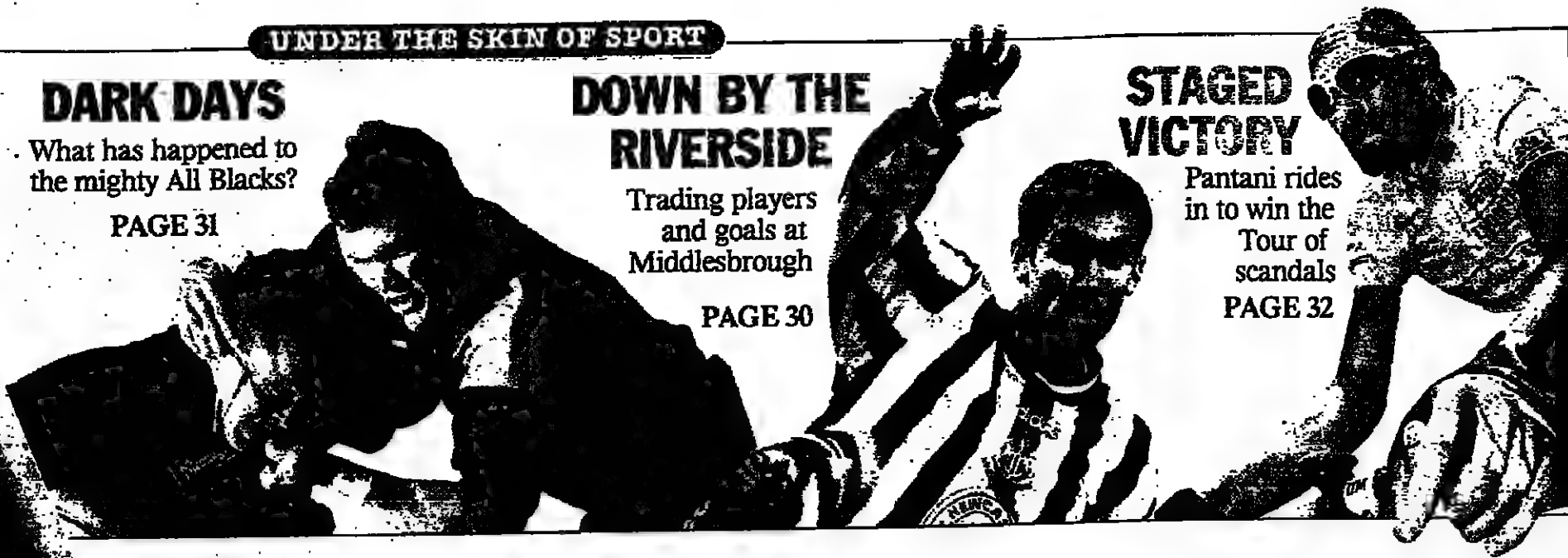
Trading players and goals at Middlesbrough

PAGE 30

STAGED VICTORY

Pantani rides in to win the Tour of scandals

PAGE 32



# THE TIMES SPORT

13 PAGES

MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

QUICKSILVER McLARENS PRODUCE ANOTHER DOMINANT DISPLAY

## Hakkinen on home straight in pursuit of world title



The McLaren-Mercedes cars were imperious around Hockenheim yesterday, left, allowing Hakkinen to savour victory on the podium. Main photograph: Wolfgang Rattay

**R**estate Schumacher fingered the bundle of banknotes almost in disbelief at her good fortune. It was not enough that McLaren-Mercedes should make a clean sweep of the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim yesterday, but the wife of the chairman of Mercedes-Benz also won the pre-race sweepstake.

Her prediction of a fifth one-two finish this season for Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard and a painful struggle to fifth place for Michael Schumacher won her £220. But as she gazed down wondering how to celebrate her winnings, she was already being submerged in a torrent of champagne in the McLaren motorhome.

For Mercedes to win a grand prix on home soil for the first time since Juan-Manuel Fangio 40 years ago was enough cause for celebration: to put clear air between the modern Silver Arrows and the pursuing Ferraris of Schumacher and Eddie Irvine was of much deeper significance.

This grand prix could turn out to be the decisive point in the world drivers' championship this season: the race when Hakkinen built a convincing 16-point lead over Schumacher with only five races left.

If Mrs Schumacher had no doubts, Hakkinen and Coulthard, having caught sight of the winning post, Hakkinen is driving like a man who

### Kevin Eason watches the flying Finn take a significant step closer to the world championship at Hockenheim

knows the world championship is his.

There were no wobbles yesterday, no panics when it seemed his car might be malfunctioning or running short of fuel. The once tongue-tied and reticent challenger has turned into a confident champion-in-waiting. "To hold a lead like this in the championship is great," the Finn said.

"I am relaxed because I know we have the best package of car and tyres and the best team. Why should I worry? Behind him in the race, and Coulthard was simply unable — and unwilling — to risk overtaking with McLaren on the way to maximum points. The Scot probably had his chance as he led going into the pits, but he overshot the stop, which cost him a crucial second.

"The mistake cost me maybe half-a-second or a second," Coulthard said, "but for that I could have got back out in front of Mika. If I had, I am sure I would have won the race. The pit-stop was my best chance, but I got held up by a couple of cars in the stadium complex. I got a little bit frustrated and in trying to make up the time I overshot in the pits."

In that second, Hakkinen regained

his lead and drove to his sixth win of the season, Coulthard content to be cast again in the role of plucky teammate. It is a role that will be increasingly important as the remaining races of this season unfold.



Schumacher cuts a desolate figure as his championship hopes faded

Ron Dennis, who heads the McLaren team, vowed there would never be team orders to force Coulthard to make way for Hakkinen — he simply expects his drivers to make the best decisions for the team. Dennis gave both drivers new contracts the day before the race, at the behest of Mercedes executives who believe they are the most pleasant and most co-operative drivers in Formula One — as well as two of the best.

Coulthard knows that his own title chances have receded and his decisions now must be based on helping Hakkinen and beating Schumacher. "Mika is on his way to the championship because he is driving well and nobody would begrudge him," he said. "I am not going to take risks on overtaking when it is my job to get maximum points for the team."

There is no way I can shy away from the issue. The team has had too barren a period in both the drivers' and the constructors' championship for us to run into each other. It would be ridiculous.

As the rock music pumped out from the huge silver and black motorhomes late into the night, the mood in the McLaren camp could hardly have been more different to

the often dour approach that clouded recent races, when a championship season that once seemed a straightforward duel between Hakkinen and Coulthard became an angst-ridden, three-way affair.

Just as Mercedes wants to win its first world championship in four decades, Schumacher is intent on ending a near 20-year drought in the drivers' championship for Ferrari. It seemed that the sheer force of will of the German, whose ability to snatch victory from the most unlikely circumstances, was irresistible as he reeled off three wins in a row mid-season. Perhaps, though, the irresistible of Schumacher has met the

Hill back in form... 25  
Championship details... 25

immovable force of a McLaren team with a new-found direction and determination.

Schumacher slunk away quickly. "We got a fifth and some points. That's the way it is and that is what we will have to be satisfied with," he said. "We are trying to improve and that means finding different directions and opportunities and sometimes they work, sometimes they don't." If he is to get back into contention for the title in Hungary in two weeks, Ferrari will have to find some quick solutions.



Coulthard celebrates second place and realises that he still has an important role in the drivers' championship

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ATHLETICS: BRITAIN'S 400M RUNNER BIDS FAREWELL WITH CALL TO BRING OFFICIALS TO ACCOUNT

# Black bows out with battling third in Sheffield

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ROGER BLACK gave a wholehearted performance, one typical of his 13 years in athletics, but he did not quite have the staying power to win the last 400 metres of his career in the British grand prix at Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield, last night. Black came off the final bend leading but was beaten on the run-in by Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas.

A week ago, Richardson and Thomas had earned their places in the Great Britain team for the European championships in Budapest this month. Black, though, was controversially omitted from the team after finishing fourth in the trial. He may not have been as quick last night as he would have liked but his effort could not have been faulted. Richardson won in 45.02sec, with Thomas second in 45.22sec and Black third in 45.51sec.

Whether this proves to be Black's last race remains open to slight doubt. Should one of the three athletes selected ahead of him for Budapest suffer an injury between now and then, Black would be the obvious replacement.

Black has said that he would remain on standby. Till Luff, the European Athletic Association secretary, has said that, provided Black's name was among the four permitted entries for each event to be submitted by the August 8 deadline, he could be included in the final three which need not be declared until two days before the first round on August 19.

It made good sense to treat last night as the farewell. Black's parting shot, though, was to insist that selectors are made accountable for such decisions in future. He said that now they were paid in their roles as coaches em-

played by British athletics courtesy of Lottery funding, they should be subject to the same scrutiny as football managers when it comes to keeping their jobs.

Black, 32, will turn to television work and the motivational speaking he conducts for businessmen. "There are a lot of things in my life and I do not need athletics as a reason for being," he said.

That he was unable to close the circle on his career will always irk him, though. This athlete, who has won individual and relay medals from all four of the international championships, said he had so wanted to draw the curtain at the European championships.

"My career began in 1986, when I won the Europeans," he said. "Okay, I had won the Commonwealth Games two weeks before, but winning the Europeans was my world breakthrough and that would have been a lovely way to end my career. I was a 20-year-old naive dreamer and I began the season aged 32, not so naive, but still dreaming."

The selectors seemed to overlook one critical point when omitting Black from an individual place for Budapest. "I am a good competitor when it matters," Black said. "I cannot think of any championship in which I should have performed where I have not performed."

"I should have won the world championship in 1991 but I still won the silver so I have never really messed up." True, Black was eliminated in the semi-finals of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona but the fact that he was there at all was remarkable in itself as he had spent the year trying to recover from injury.

Rather than single out one highlight from his career, Black chooses three: his Olym-

pic silver medal, the second of his European title wins, in 1990, and the Great Britain 4x400 metres relay victory at the 1991 world championships.

Only once before last night had Black ended a race in tears. It was in 1994, after the European championship final in Helsinki, when he was beaten into second place by his fellow Briton, Duane Ladefogues. "I was bitterly disappointed because I was better than Ladefogues," Black said, "but I was coming off glandular fever and ran out of steam."

Jonathan Edwards stretched his unbeaten record in the triple jump this season to 11 competitions, although his winning jump, 17.14 metres, was modest by his standards. Nevertheless, it was sufficient to defeat Denis Kapustin, from Russia, the European champion.

Colin Jackson, though, was beaten into third place in the 110 metres hurdles. Reggie Torian, a former American footballer, lived up to his status as the fastest hurdler of the year, winning in 13.15sec. Allen Johnson, the Olympic champion, made it a United States 1-2, in 13.22, with Jackson recording 13.24.

Jackson's fellow Welshman, Paul Gray, continues to move in the right direction, having moved on from the sprint hurdles to the one-lap event. Gray has been chosen for Budapest and, although he could finish only fourth last night, he improved his career best to 49.76sec. Gray was bronze medal winner in the 110 metres hurdles at the 1994 Commonwealth Games but made the switch last year to the longer event. Last night he was up against Stephane Diagana, the world champion, from France, who was a clear winner.



Edwards steps out to maintain his unbeaten triple jump record this season

## Juniors provide vision of golden future

Steven Downes on record medal haul for Britain at world championships

DESPAIR turned to delight in less than five minutes at the seventh world junior championships in Anshy yesterday: tears were being shed by the Great Britain 4x100 metres men's relay team after they were disqualified for a faulty takeover, while on the track, Julie Pratt was surprisingly adding to the British gold medal haul in the 100 metres hurdles.

When, later in the cold, wet afternoon, David Parker won the fourth gold medal of the week for Britain, in the javelin, it stamped these championships as the country's most successful since the first in Athens in 1986, when Colin Jackson, David Sharpe and the sprint relay team all won. Add to the final medal tally the near-misses yesterday when the women's 4x100 metres team finished fourth, the fifth place of the men's 4x400 metres relay team, and the fourth place achieved by Ben Warming in the sprint hurdles, and the championships for Britain were a success.

A year ago, at the European junior championships, Pratt, 19, had led at the final hurdle when she fell, badly grazing herself from head to toe.

"The fall would have been worse for Julie if she didn't have another year in the age group," Ian Grant, who trains Pratt at the Essex Ladies club, said. "At least we always knew she had another chance here."

A chance, perhaps, but seemingly a slim one. In the lane alongside Pratt was Hongwei Sun, one of the all-conquering China team. Sun's best time of 12.92sec compared to the 13.52 of Pratt. Sun, in fact, was one of four women faster, on paper, than the Briton.

Conditions for the final were far from perfect. The evening rain meant the athletes were drenched, even before the fourth false start. At the fifth time of asking, they got away. Pratt managing possibly the best start of her career, and a tight race became a battle over the final two flights. "When I cleared the last hurdle," Pratt said, "I just closed my eyes and went for the line. I didn't know I'd won until I heard the announcement." Pratt and Sun were given the same time, 13.75.

Parker's victory in the javelin was, if anything, an even greater triumph over adversity. Two weeks ago, Parker, 19, from Scarborough, could not walk because of a then ligament behind his right knee. Then, when he was warming up for the qualifying round on Friday, an official balked

Parker during an approach run for a practice throw, causing him to stop sharply and twist his damaged knee.

Parker managed to qualify for the final and another two days of physiotherapy saw him fit enough to throw at full throttle in the final. His first effort, in driving rain, soared to 72.85 metres. No one managed to get within a metre of him. "It was biting my nails all through the last round," Parker, who has a three-hour round-trip to train at Leeds with Mick Hill, the Britain No 2, said. Parker is also helped by John Trower, coach to Steve Backley, but for all Backley and Hill's achievements, Parker is the first British javelin thrower to win a world or Olympic gold medal.

By winning his second gold in the 200 metres on Saturday, and completing a rare sprint double, Christian Malcolm laid claim to being



Malcolm: second gold

the outstanding male athlete of the championships. His 20.44sec in the final broke the British junior record, set 13 years ago by Ade Mafe, by 0.1sec.

While Mafe, an Olympic finalist in 1984 at the age of 17, is now working in football as a fitness trainer with Chelsea, Malcolm turned his back on soccer to concentrate on athletics. Malcolm, 19, said that he decided to sign for Nottingham Forest because "in athletics, if I failed, I was because I have failed. If I succeed, it is because of what my coach and I have done."

The two bronze medal winners reacted differently. Carl Myerscough, the 6ft 10in shot putter, was not satisfied but perhaps he will reflect that his was the best performance at world level by a British man since Geoff Cape finished fifth at the 1980 Moscow Games. Sarah Wilhelmy, in contrast, was delighted with her bronze at 200 metres, but then she has another year in the age group.

## Inspired Radcliffe turns tables on O'Sullivan

By DAVID POWELL

SONIA O'SULLIVAN, who beat Paula Radcliffe to the world cross-country title in Marrakesh in March, was outclassed by the Bedford runner over 3,000 metres in the British grand prix at Sheffield last night.

Radcliffe ran away from the field after the third lap to record 8min 38.84sec, indicating that her preparation for the European championships in Budapest this month is going perfectly. Radcliffe and O'Sullivan will be two of the main contenders for the 10,000 metres gold medal there.

O'Sullivan, though, seemed content to let Radcliffe get away last night and, though she put in a strong last 200 metres, still she finished seven

seconds down. "That has got to be a psychological boost for me for the Europeans," Radcliffe said. "Twice a world cross-country runner-up, she is determined this season to win her first medal at an international track championship."

She has had enough near misses to last a lifetime: fourth and fifth in the past two world championships at 5,000 metres; fifth in the Atlanta Olympics at 5,000 metres; fourth in the world junior 3,000 metres; fourth in the European junior 3,000 metres.

This year has been an outstanding one for her as she has set a road five miles world record, broken Liz McColgan's 10,000 metres British record, and won the European Cup 5,000 metres. She is not satisfied yet.

"I try not to think about what I have done when I have things ahead to think about," Radcliffe said. "The thing I want more than anything is to get a medal in a track championship. I guess you start at any colour and move up from there, but it would be nice to begin at the top."

Although selected by England for the 5,000 metres at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur next month, Radcliffe's priority is the European championships. After the European Cup, she went altitude training in the French Pyrenees for a month, to top up her tank, and the benefit of that was evident last night.

Gary Lough, Radcliffe's boyfriend, who was training with her at Font Romeu, is no doubt she is on an upward

curve. "Paula will run a lot quicker, over 10,000 and hopefully it will be this year," Lough said.

Allison Curbishley, 22, Britain's leading woman 400 metres runner, paid the price of her courageous start when she was beaten on the line by Pauline Davis, from the Bahamas. However, it says something for Curbishley's improving status that she can count herself in the class of Davis, who, in the last three years, has finished in the top four at world championships and Olympics.

Curbishley caught Davis, two lanes outside her, before the 200 metres mark and coming into the straight, the Bath-based Scot was two metres clear. But, in the last 50 metres, Davis reeled her in.

Emma George, from Australia, suffered an unexpected defeat in the pole vault, finishing second to Nastia Ryschik, of Germany. George has set 16 world records, indoors and out, and will be strong favourite to win the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. Already, she confesses to feeling the weight of expectation as a host-nation favourite for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"People are saying that is one gold medal in the bag," the former acrobat and trapeze artist, whose speciality was the Tower of Chairs, said. For this she would balance in the hand-stand position on three girls, six chairs and a table, the legs of which were perched on wine bottles. "I often wonder if I could do that now," George said.



Radcliffe victory salute

### SPORT IN BRIEF

## Wiggins wins with superb road show

■ **CYCLING:** Bradley Wiggins completed a notable haul of titles yesterday when he won the national junior 25-mile road time trial near Bedford on his debut ride in such an event. Wiggins, 18, from London, had already won a world title in Cuba and four track titles in Manchester last week.

Wiggins won in a time of 53min 53sec with Mark Kelly, of the Isle of Man, second in 54min 28sec and Matthew Wells third in 55min 13sec. "It went better than I had anticipated," Wiggins said. "I went hard from the start and was surprised how quickly the time passed." Colin Sturgess had his first significant road race victory since 1990 yesterday when he won the 119-mile Ecclesiastical Tour of the Cotswolds.

## Old stagers shine

■ **SNOOKER:** Mike Hallett and Tony Knowles, two of snooker's leading lights in the 1980s, rekindled their old form at the European Open qualifying competition in Plymouth yesterday.

Hallett, who has plummeted from No 5 to No 128 in the world, reached the third round by beating David McLellan, of Glasgow, 5-3, while Knowles eased past Neil Robertson, of Australia, 5-1.

## Bonus for Belles

■ **FOOTBALL:** Clare Utley scored from 30 yards as Doncaster Belles beat Arsenal Ladies 1-0 to win the Mansfield Leisure Services Trophy yesterday. Arsenal beat Everton, the holders, on penalties in the semi-final at Mansfield, but were always second best to Doncaster. Manchester United beat Sheffield Wednesday 3-1 to win the Reebok Cup and Manchester City beat Huddersfield 1-0 to win the Mansfield Brewery Cup.

## Symonds in charge

■ **CRICKET:** Andrew Symonds, the former Gloucestershire player, scored a fine unbeaten half-century to seal a five-wicket victory for Australia A against a Scotland select team at Aberdeen yesterday. Iain Philip, the captain, had earlier scored a century to help the home side to reach 188 for eight. Australia A, who had been reduced to 89 for three, won with 13 balls to spare.



Albert Costa celebrates his victory over Andrea Gaudenzi, of Italy, yesterday in the Generali Open final in Kitzbühel. The Spaniard needed almost three hours to win the match 6-2, 1-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 and pick up his eighth career title. The win is likely to move

him near to a top ten ranking, which he held last year before falling out of the top 20. Costa, whose titles have all come on clay, won in Hamburg in May, then reached the final of the Italian Open the following week before sustaining a wrist injury.

### BOWLS

## Moon enjoys day in sun

By DAVID RYAN JONES

AN EXCITING finish to the third international between England and Israel on Saturday brought palpable relief to the host country, and disappointment to a team of under-rated Israelis, who were determined to inflict an unexpected defeat on some of the world's best players.

Israel had won the first international 18-4 at Cambridge Chesterton, but had lost by the same score at Selby on Thursday, and there was an air of anticipation at Victoria Park, Leamington, which is better known as the venue for the women's national championships.

Team events are the Israelis' forte, and they got stuck into their task with relish, winning one of the two triples, and two of the three pairs games,

which preceded the head-to-head singles.

With Israel needing to win three of the six singles ties to take the match and the series, Cecil Bransky, their most experienced player, was in buoyant mood. "It's in the bag," he opined. "We are certain to win two matches" - he did not say which ones - "So we only need to win one of the other four."

Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, who had lost in pairs and triples, found his form, and was the first to leave the green, having shown his team-mates how to win. His 21-12 victory over Chaim Sheffer was quickly followed by Danny Derison's 21-8 win over Asaf Irtan.

Allcock's Cheltenham clubmate, Andy Wills, added a 21-17 win over Roy Jennings, leaving Israel needing to win the remaining three matches.

Jeff Rabkin, whom Allcock beat in the world final two years ago, kept Israel's hopes alive when he came back from 16-8 down to beat Grant Burgess, 21-20, but England clinched the match and series when Greg Moon edged home, 21-17, against Bransky, who had to call his words.

Leamington is now standing by for the women bowlers of Devon, Surrey, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire, who will do battle for the Johns trophy. Tomorrow sees the final stages of the Walker Cup two-rink championship, and the pairs gets under way on Wednesday.

### SHOOTING

## Digweed in dominant form

GEORGE DIGWEED gave an outstanding demonstration of shooting excellence on his way to winning the Embassy world sporting championship at the West London Shooting School, Northolt, Middlesex (Rosalind Nott writes).

The 34-year-old Sussex day pigeon shooter arrived at the two-day event fresh from a record fourth victory in the European championship and, on present form, he was

tipped as the man to beat. The course designer admitted that the stands were set for a maximum score of 94 targets out of 100, a target that only Digweed reached on the opening day. Few thought he could improve on the second layout. But his unwavering accuracy took him to a total of 97 on the second day, giving him an eight-target advantage going into the final shoot-off.

The six-man final was an all-English, proving domestic

dominance of this sport. The line-up included Ben Huthwaite, 20, the former world junior champion who was lying in second place, and Matt Hance, a relative newcomer to the sport.

But under the pressure of the final 25-target shoot-off, experience won over youth and Martin Elworthy, five times the British skeet champion, shot consistently to take the silver medal six targets behind Digweed.

hakinen

Evans sets thrilling finale























FOOTBALL: EUROPEAN FLAVOUR OFFERS LITTLE TO SAVOUR IN MODEST MENU AT THE RIVERSIDE

# Gillespie transfer adds air of mystery

By George Caulkin

A DESERTED room, blank television coverage, upwards of £40 for a two-day ticket and six hours of brain-numbing football slapped haphazardly in between all combined to offer the most eloquent argument against any purported European super league.

The JD Sports Cup, held at the Riverside Stadium,

insisted after his side had been beaten on penalties by Benfica on a soporific Saturday afternoon.

In spite of all that, however, a feeling of emptiness remained in the air — and not just in terms of supporters' wallets, because this was little more than an exercise in getting exercise. There was a goal from Alan Shearer, the Newcastle striker, a year on from the injury that had done so much to unbalance Newcastle last season, and there was a cameo from Paul Gascoigne, the Middlesbrough and England midfielder player. Yet the memories that lingered were of Andreas Andersson, Mikkel Beck and Hamilton Ricard. It was not pretty.

It was apparent from first kick to last that this would be no reliable guide to the fortunes of Newcastle and Middlesbrough in the FA Carling Premiership, nor indeed, to how United might fare in the Cup Winners' Cup. Instead, there were more diverse talking points, like the incongruity of seeing Mark Pembroke and Ronaldo in the same Benfica line-up, although this particular Brazilian happened to be a central defender. It was, unfortunately, the real Pembroke.

And then there was the curious case of Gillespie, sitting in the stands alone, bar Ian Elliott, his agent, a few rows behind his fellow non-playing players. Ostensibly, the reason for his non-involvement was an ankle problem, although the bizarre seating arrangement made it seem as though his particular injury might be contagious.

In reality, the 23-year-old right winger was on the verge



With the new season beckoning, Gascoigne was withdrawn as a precaution at the Riverside Stadium

of completing a £3.5 million transfer from Newcastle to Middlesbrough, a move all but confirmed by the principal parties yesterday — rather frostily in the case of Dalglish, who was decidedly miffed at Middlesbrough's speed in publicising the event.

The press release I got handed was as much as a surprise to Bryan Robson [the Middlesbrough manager] as it was to me," Dalglish said. "If it had gone through, I will be disappointed, because I haven't had a chance to speak to Keith."

"I don't like to announce a signing unless it is 100 per cent

Robson said several hours after the announcement had officially been made. "I've agreed a fee with Newcastle and personal terms with Keith, but he still has to get through his medical."

Robson had conceded earlier that Gillespie was "just the sort of player I was looking to add to our squad", a need that had become acute following the loss of Craig Hignett to Aberdeen and a breakdown in the proposed £5 million transfer of Francesco Moriero, of Internazionale.

Of the off-field problems which have beset Gillespie

since moving to Newcastle as part of the £7 million deal that took Andy Cole to Manchester United three years ago, Robson professed a lack of concern. "I know the lad well. It's well documented that he had a bit of a gambling problem, but he seems to have got round that. I'm only interested in what he does on the pitch."

His new contract, subject to a medical, will run for five years. Gascoigne endured his weekly injury scare, a slight calf strain forcing him off at half-time of Middlesbrough's penalty defeat to Newcastle, although that, according to

Robson, was only "precautionary", and there had been a composed performance on Saturday evening from Jason Gavin, Middlesbrough's Irish defender, when Empoli, the Italian club, who finished twelfth in Serie A last season, emerged with a 1-0 win.

So, as the perfect epitaph to a tournament watched by merely 10,000 hardy souls over the course of two days, Empoli and Benfica contested the final in front of a crowd numbering hundreds. An exhaustive penalty shoot-out eventually resulted in victory for Benfica. Super? Hardly.

before his side regained some of their poise when Wallace cut the deficit in the 27th minute with a right-foot drive.

The pace of McCann, though, tended to trouble Rangers and the winger squandered two good opportunities to restore the Hearts advantage before van Bronckhorst sent a shot inches wide.

Advocate, not surprisingly, chose to inject some variety into his side's attacking play and brought on Kanchelskis, his most extensive purchase, for the second half in place of Thern. The Ukrainian's £5.5 million fee broke the Scottish transfer record but, apart from one run, he had little opportunity to unleash the electric pace that made him popular at Manchester United and Everton.

Indeed, it was Hearts' own wide player who came closest to scoring again. McCann showed sublime skills with the turn in the 54th minute which left Moore and Ferguson for dead, but yet again the little winger could not finish his good work and Niemi lost his shot.

Wallace's overhead kick gave Rangers cause for optimism and then the Englishman set up Ferguson in the 66th minute, but although the Rangers midfielder played hard a clear sight of goal, his raking shot evaded the target.

HEARTS (4-4-2): G. Russell, G. Liddle, D. Watt, P. Biech, G. Thompson, T. Papp, S. Samuel, S. Fulton, N. McCann, J. Hamilton, S. Adam, G. G. Murray, S. Smith. RANGERS (4-4-2): A. Niemi, R. Gabbus, C. Moore, S. Potts, A. Murray, J. Thern (sub: A. Kanchelskis, 46), G. van Bronckhorst (sub: G. Armano, 69), J. Ferguson, J. Albiston, R. Wallace, G. Dunn, Wallace (sub: Hamilton)

## TODAY

### Football 98-99



A 16-page guide to the football season with full fixture listings

Middlesbrough, over the weekend, might count only as a distant relation to that much-mooted possibility, but, in essence, all the ingredients were there. In practice, it was not conducive to a festival of fun, although the switch of Keith Gillespie, the Northern Ireland international, between two of the participants halfway through proceedings at least created a frisson of excitement.

Of course, if you listen to managers, then pre-season competitions are not supposed to be fun. "It wasn't a real match," Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager,

## Wednesday delight as Jonk joins for £2.5m

WIM JONK, the Holland midfielder player, will become Danny Wilson's first signing as Sheffield Wednesday manager when he completes a £2.5 million move from PSV Eindhoven today. The 31-year-old, a key factor in his country's run to the World Cup semi-finals this summer, has agreed personal terms with the FA Carling Premiership club and will sign a three-year deal.

Jonk, who was also sought by Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur, said: "I've a very good feeling about joining Sheffield Wednesday and playing in the Premiership. I'm very impressed with the club and the management and I'm looking forward to it very much."

A delegation from Wednesday, led by David Richards, the chairman, flew to Eindhoven at the weekend to finalise the deal. Graham Mackrell, the Wednesday secretary, said: "Naturally, we're delighted to have landed Wim, who will arrive in Sheffield on Tuesday."

Mackrell added that Wilson still had money available for further purchases. "It's not been the best pre-season with Danny coming on the scene reasonably late," he said. "It's been hard for him, but the money is there as and when he wants to spend it."

Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, has turned down a transfer request from Pierre van Hooijdonk, the Holland striker. The player had claimed that Forest were not good enough to survive in the Premiership this season after the sale of Kevin Campbell, his fellow striker, to Trabzonspor and that he would not stay and "let my career go down the pan".

Bussett, who led his side to promotion from the Nationwide League first division last season, said: "Once again, Van Hooijdonk's lack of self-control has let him down with the comments he has made. He has served only one year of that term and I will not be accepting his transfer request. It is very unfortunate that he has come out with this and spoken about his team-mates and colleagues in the way that he has."

## Hearts get straight back into the groove

Heart of Midlothian ..... 2  
Rangers ..... 1

By Phil Gordon

HEARTS emphasised their growing reputation as the third power in Scottish football when they defeated Rangers in their opening Premier League fixture at Tynecastle with a mirror image of last season's Scottish Cup final between the clubs.

Just as on that occasion, the Edinburgh club saw the comfort of a two-goal lead, supplied by a non-involvement in the game, although the bizarre seating arrangement made it seem as though his particular injury might be contagious.

Scotland's new league has copied its English counterpart in putting players' names on the back of their shirts, a useful aid so far as the Rangers supporters inside Tynecastle were concerned.

Such was the scale of change at the disposed champions during the close season — with 16 departures and eight arrivals — that only four of the Rangers side that lost the cup final in May were retained for this fixture.

Hearts, not surprisingly, are a club imbued with new vigour since that day. 11 weeks ago, when they won their first piece of silverware in 36 years.

## Jansen sees his legacy maintained by Venglos

By Phil Gordon

JESUS GILY GIL and Doug Ellis are not known for their appreciation of irony, but perhaps the notoriously impatient chairman of Atlético Madrid and Aston Villa are the only people who could have understood the position that Fergus McCann, their counterpart at Celtic, found himself in.

Just a few feet behind McCann in the directors' box at Celtic Park on Saturday sat Wim Jansen, the former coach, whose achievements last season drew 60,000 supporters to witness the dawn of a new Scottish Premier League season and the celebration of the championship success just 12 weeks ago. As McCann returned to his seat after the traditional unfurling of the league flag, accompanied by the jeers of many supporters who blame him for Jansen's untimely departure



Salvatore, left, and Wallace, of Rangers, contest a header at Tynecastle yesterday

The thread between the two occasions was continued when the man whose goal secured the Scottish Cup, Stephane Adam, gave Hearts the lead after just five minutes.

Hamilton began the move near the centre circle with a clever reverse pass that caught out Gabbus and allowed McCann to sprint clear down the left. The winger then rolled a pass across the goal area which was missed by both

Numan and Porcini and Adam gratefully stabbed in from six yards.

Six minutes later, Adam could have doubled the advantage when he beat the Rangers outside trap, but his poor first touch carried the ball too close to Niemi and the French striker was subsequently cautioned for an ugly lunge at the Rangers goalkeeper.

Rangers, given that new coach Dick Advocaat had

spent £23 million reinventing the team, were looking for a cheap imitation of their former all-conquering selves and that was underlined in the 20th minute when Hamilton scored Hearts' second goal.

Thern dived on the ball to relieve him of it and slip a pass to Hamilton, who drilled his low shot past Niemi. The Rangers goalkeeper then made two wonderful saves

two late goals concluded business. Elsewhere, Aberdeen found encouragement in the form of Craig Hignett, their most notable new signing. The former Middlesbrough player scored his first goal for the club in the 2-0 defeat of newly-promoted Dundee at Dens Park. Eoin Jess had earlier become the first scorer in the new-style Premiership.

Kilmarnock are trying to persuade Ally McCoist, the former Rangers striker, to join them, but that motivates Paul Wright, the club's top-scorer for the past three seasons, to net a sublime overhead kick in the 2-0 win against Dundee United. Yet even Wright was outdone by Pat Nevin's arduous lob for the second goal. Motherwell, who have recruited 12 players, beat St Johnstone with a free kick from Jered Stirling, a recent acquisition from Partick Thistle.

## SCHOOLS SPORT

# Britain builds on rare centre of excellence

By Mike Rosewell

ANNA FANGEN and Jennifer Hutton will be in the bow and stroke seats of the British coxless four when the junior world championships begin in Austria on Wednesday. The coach of the crew will be Domenyk Honey. Back home, Beryl Crockford will be waiting anxiously for news of the crew's progress. The connection between the quartet is that they all hail from Lady Eleanor Holles BC, undoubtedly the most successful schoolgirls' boat club in the country.

When rowing in girls' schools began to take off in the early 1980s, five girls from LEH, a successful academic institution in Hampton, Middlesex, saw the boys of Hampton School active on the river and wanted to take part. They approached Steve Gunn, then the master of rowing at Hampton and subsequently the coach to the Hampton-based Searle brothers, winners of

to greater heights and the school's top eight have been national schools eight champions since 1993. Crockford, now 48, said: "Every year, the girls have achieved something new and the longer you go on, the more difficult that becomes. Every other year, we have produced at least one junior international, often many more." The success of LEH girls shows no sign of waning and 1997 saw them achieve an unprecedented seven wins at the national schools championships. 18 girls going home with two gold medals each and a further five with one each.

The rowing set-up at LEH is unique. Crockford and the other coaches are not involved as teachers and rowing is not a timetabled activity. The 60 or so girls who opt to row have five or six opportunities a week to do so, all in their own time.

Crockford said not being involved in the academic side of LEH has had its advantages. "I can put the rowing first and fight my corner. With rowing being separate from the school, we don't get a



muddled area." LEH do not own their own boathouse. Instead they share Molesey BC's premises. LEH also only possess five boats — an eight, a coxed pair, a quad and two old pairs. Others are borrowed or hired.

"I just get on the phone and just around," Crockford said. "As far as I am concerned, your main resource is coaches and, as Cliff Richard once said, I make sure that I have good people around me."

Apart from Honey, who is on international duty, Phil Simmons and Nick Lee, two former Hampton junior internationals, are involved, together with Mary Stevens, a former junior and senior international, and Juliette Lloyd, an LEH junior international. Set crews for set coaches is not Crockford's way. "We work as a team. You have to be flexible. When a gap needs plugging, I plug it."



The crew of Lady Eleanor Holles School and Domenyk Honey, the coach, have a prestigious past to live up to

## POLO

# CS Brooks hit back to tame Flying Tigers

By John Watson

THE final of the High-Cow Cowdray Park Challenge Group, which was played off over five chukkas at Midhurst, Sussex, yesterday ended in a 9-6 victory for Brook Johnson's CS Brooks, the winners in 1997, against Alex Danner's Flying Tigers.

The opening chukka saw the Tigers open up a convincing lead with Alan Kent, their No 2, wriggling his Irish bay gelding, Whitesocks, through the opposition to score three quick goals while Pablo Laurence defended their own goal with style.

CS Brooks altered their line-up for the second chukka, moving Jaime Huidobro, of Chile, up to No 2, with Andrew Seavill taking his place at back. Huidobro's ball control looked much more like that of a forward, while Seavill's steadiness and exceptional long hitting was better suited to the back slot. The fresh composition served them

well for they had equalised at 3-3 by the close of the second chukka and were leading 5-4 by breaking in time.

The last two chukkas saw CS Brooks going to from strength to strength. In the fourth, Huidobro scored with a 60-yard penalty conversion, after which Sener Johnson, 16, the son of the team's patron, positioned at No 1, put in another from the open. Johnson scored another in the last chukka and so did Seavill. After the Cup was presented to Brook Johnson, the trophies for the best-playing ponies were awarded. The Vickers Cup for the pony judged to be the best heavyweight went to Kent's Whitesocks and the Joynson Cup for the best lightweight to Brook Johnson's Chinchin, ridden by Henry Brett, the team's impressive No 3.

CS BROOKS: 1, S. Johnson (1), G. Huidobro (2), S. H. Brett (3), A. Kent (4), J. Seavill (5). FLYING TIGERS: 1, A. Kent (2), 2, A. Kent (3), 3, A. Kent (4), 4, J. Seavill (5).



# Turning point on the road to hell and back

Sport is about the creation of hell; professional sport is about the creation of new and deeper hells for its participants — but perhaps the deepest and darkest hell of all is reserved for the riders of the Tour de France.

There are two reasons for sport's unending creation of hells and both of them are money. Reason one is just more sport: the creation of the 12-month season and every month of it must be based around the big names or it won't sell.

Bodies and minds snap under the strain of it all, but the peloton of professional sport rolls ever onward. The England rugby union players cracked under the pressure of excessive demands and the top

men simply refused — under various excuses — to tour in the close season.

At the World Cup, poor Ronaldo had a fit and was still forced to play in the final. It may have cost Brazil the World Cup, but no doubt it achieved some short-term gain for the money-men.

The second reason for the deliberate creation of hells is that hells make compulsive viewing. All sports have always had some kind of hellishness about them — we would not watch them if they did not — but the Tour de France brings the watching of protracted personal torment to the greatest level in sport.

Football did its best to match this with the invention of the penalty shoot-out. This

is great for the spectators, but then, as my colleague, Brian Glanville — never a man to sit on the fence when kicking it to his is an option — said, so are public executions.

I am always half-expecting to see some sportsman saying: "Come on guys. This is stupid. We don't have to go through this, you know?" I never seriously thought it would actually happen. But it did and it simply had to happen in the Tour de France. No other event could have brought its sportsmen to such a pitch of despair.

The riders had been so long in hell so they refused to race, wearing their numbers off and merely cruising through the French countryside. You almost expected the entire



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

peloton to stop for a three-hour lunch and a few pints of *vin du pays*.

It all happened because the demands of professional sport add a further dimension of hell to the athletes' life, which is drugs. For many, the fact of the matter is that you do not need drugs to win. You need drugs simply to take part.

Sport has always failed to police itself so, this year, the police decided to police it. The

1998 Tour has been a relentless tale of ruthless harassment justified by the finding of huge caches of drugs. The police action has revealed a sport of massive, formalised and institutionalised drug-taking.

The sport had lost every bit of credibility that it ever had — at least, as a clean and drug-free sport. So what happened on the last day, as the riders cruised, demob happy, seeing an end to their three-week hell

on the approach to Paris? They were cheered. Cheered to the echo and cheered again and then again as they reached the centre of town and raced across the cobbles of the Champs Elysées. Another last savouring of hell as a sudden gushing of rain made the cobbles an ice-rink and, naturally, no one was going to stop the race for a consideration so small as rider safety.

The riders of the Tour have their own ethic. It is them against the organisers, them against the media, them against the world. Marco Pantani had a puncture, but because of this defiant sporting ethic, the private ethic of the citizens of hell, no one took advantage. "It wouldn't be

right," Steven Roche, commenting for Eurosport, said, "to attack the leader when he was down."

They have been through hell together, these riders. They have been reduced to half their number by exhaustion, injury, illness, also by walkout and disqualification for drugs. The survivors think more of each other than they do of cheap victory. In hell, there is little to cling to but a certain sense of style.

Just as I salute every rider — and, for that matter, every horse — that completes the cross-country at Badminton, so we must salute every rider that finishes the Tour de France. Whether drugged or not. Certainly, that was the message that came from the

crowds on the Champs Elysées.

Drugs can give you strength, but they cannot give you courage. In the Tour de France, as in all the extreme sports, there are heroes, there are villains and there are victims and, in the words of Eric Morecambe, you can't see the join.

This Tour de France was a watershed event in the history of sport. It will go down in history as the turning-point in the battle against drugs.

But will it be because the battle was won or will it be because the battle was no longer considered worth the trouble of fighting? When we realised for the first time that, in sport, hell has no limits?

'New Zealand rugby is no different from the rest of the world when it comes to the removal of core players'

## All Black future is a little less bright

So, now we know why New Zealand rugby coaches are popping up left, right and centre in Great Britain. It's not the money, heaven forbid, that has drawn Warren Gatland, John Mitchell and now Graham Henry into positions with, respectively, Ireland, England and Wales. They had read the signs back home and knew what was coming.

Only one of them — Henry — had been born when New Zealand last suffered the indignity of losing three international matches in succession — the *annus horribilis* of 1949, when the All Blacks' record was played six, lost six. You think today's administrators make mistakes? That year, the New Zealand Football Rugby Union dispatched its leading 30 players on tour to South Africa, but played two full internationals at home against Australia at the same time.

Who would seek to be associated with the depth to which New Zealand rugby has clearly sunk within the past 24 days, during which the All Blacks have lost to Australia in Melbourne, South Africa in Wellington and, on Saturday, Australia again in Christchurch? Well, quite a lot of us, actually, knowing the tradition, the technical expertise, the pride and the massive sense of identity that emanate from the Land of the Long White Cloud.

To be fair to John Hart, the New Zealand coach, he warned that this would be a difficult year. It was not, however, what he was saying seven months ago, when the players concluded their tour of Britain and he was asked whether his veterans had it in them to reach another World Cup in 1999, but, at that stage, he believed that he would still have Sean Fitzpatrick and Frank Bunce in his squad.

Hart is clever, perceptive and manipulative. He must have known that Fitzpatrick, that man

### DAVID HANDS



of iron, might not last the course and was in the process of building up Norman Hewitt and Scott McLeod as the next generation at hooker and centre. He knew already that Taine Randell would replace the retiring Zinzan Brooke. He was not to know that Bunce would succumb to an offer to play in France, that injury would remove Hewitt, McLeod and Alama Ieremia, another experienced centre, from most of this summer's frame, nor that Justin Marshall, his scrum half, would suffer a debilitating injury, too.

New Zealand rugby is no different from the rest of the world when it comes to the removal of core players. You cannot replace in a few short months the experience gained over a decade of the most ferociously competitive rugby. The cracks will appear and it has been New Zealand's forte that they are better at papering over them than most because their structure produces the players with the basic skills to do so.



Plenty to think about for the dejected New Zealand players on their way to a 27-23 defeat by Australia in Christchurch on Saturday. Photograph: Simon Baker

Yet it is right to look closely at some of those who have not been forced to retire, who are still giving their all for New Zealand. Ian Jones and Robin Brooke, that great pairing at lock forward, are 31 now; there is little that they have not seen in the game, save the ultimate thrill of winning a World Cup final. Does the hunger still burn, particularly when they must dig even deeper to help to compensate for the absence of their old leader, Fitzpatrick?

Michael Jones, at 33, is not the player he was, though that still leaves him better than most back-row forwards. Hart has tried to bring in replacements within a reasonably settled environment, but it is arguable that he should

have made more. Even so, would argument rage about his head if his marksman had not let him down this year? In the crunch games, Andrew Mehrtens and Carlos Spencer, world-class goal-kickers both, could not find the target often enough in Melbourne and Wellington.

There is one more element that has changed. When Hart watched, with a smile playing about his lips as Fitzpatrick struggled to hold aloft the three huge trophies won by the All Blacks just under a year ago, he must have breathed a silent prayer that neither South Africa nor Australia were as rock solid in their leadership as were the All Blacks.

New Zealand won the 1996 and

1997 tri-nations tournaments at a time when the opposition was at odds with itself. In the first of those years, South Africa had André Markgraaff making his way as coach with a side suffering from post-World Cup syndrome.

In the second of those years, South Africa had appointed as Markgraaff's successor Carel du Plessis, whose coaching record was as brief as Hart's was lengthy. Now the Springboks have Nick Mallett, a cosmopolitan figure capable of holding his own as coach with the loquacious Hart on and off the field. They have allowed Gary Teichmann to grow in stature as captain and No 8 and the whole

side is better for it. Similarly, in Australia, Greg Smith's tenure as coach was lit by the reverberations of public argument as to whether he should be in the role or not; now, under Rod Macqueen, the Wallabies are a more harmonious outfit with a gifted footballer, Stephen Larkham, in the pivotal position of fly half.

Both countries have come roaring up on New Zealand more quickly than even Hart may have expected and have ripped from the All Blacks the tri-nations trophy and, in the case of Australia, the Bledisloe Cup. Better for it to happen this year, Hart will think, than next year, when the World Cup looms. "We're going to go back to the drawing board and

rethink what our strategy now is," Hart said, with two more internationals still to be played this summer.

Next year, Randell, his captain, will be older and wiser and his players as a group will have enjoyed a decent rest during the close season, when no tours are scheduled. "Obviously, I'm under pressure because the buck invariably stops with the coach," Hart added. "I'm sure the union will review my position. They understand what is happening." Rugby's administrators are not always renowned for their depth of that understanding, but they will not be stopping the Hart-beat just yet.

Australia triumph, page 33

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## SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to sport.letters@the-times.co.uk  
Correspondence should include address and postcode

### Tour deserves much better

From Mr Stephen Burke

Sir, Jeremy Whittle's Tour de France article "Tour trips through drugs haze" (Monday, July 27) adds to the already sensational reporting concerning the recent revelations. Apparently, "Le Tour — C'est fini". Tell that to tens of thousands of supporters from across Europe who waited for hours in pouring rain to see their heroes. Whittle writes of the sport's "insularity and arrogance", that it "finds it hard to acknowledge the values of the outside world" and that it is "beyond the rule of normal ethical laws". Incredible charges, but what is there to back them up?

The UCL cycling's governing body, took steps over a year ago to clamp down on EPO. Due to the lack of an effective test, it had to set limits on red blood cells.

Cycling has had drug controls in place for longer than any other sport and these controls extend to anyone, amateur or professional, who races (an amateur friend has been tested four times). Other sports have ignored the problem (no drug tests equals no positives) yet talking to other sportspeople reveals how wide-

spread doping actually is. When Whittle points to the "most institutionalised doping scandal in modern sport", he is surely forgetting Eastern Europe and its drug regimes. Comments by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, have been reported as meaning that he approves of the legalisation of drugs in sport.

The reality is that cycling is no different than many other sports when it comes to drugs, but the recent sensationalist reporting has tended to ignore that fact.

STEPHEN BURKE,  
73 Rough Common Road,  
Canterbury, Kent  
CT2 9DE.

### Northamptonshire feels ignored by England

From Mr David Powell

Sir, I note that of the 37 players provisionally chosen for the World Cup next year, more than half come from just four counties (Lancashire and Surrey six each, Leicestershire and Warwickshire four each). None at all are from Durham, Hampshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Somerset.

You cite Chris Lewis, of Leicestershire, as "the most conspicuous absentee". Mal Loye is far and away the most deserving omission. He is the leading English run-scorer both in the championship and in the Axa League, yet he has been overlooked in favour of the likes of Darren Maddy, Matthew Maynard, the injured Graham Thorpe, Ben Smith, Graham Lloyd, Alistair Brown and John Crawley (second to Loye in the championship, average 66.28 to Loye's 85.83).

Is the reason that he was born in Northampton and plays for Northamptonshire? Or do the selectors not realise he is English? Such manifest injustice requires an explanation.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID POWELL,  
31 Bush Hill, Northampton NN3 2PQ.

### Reflections on Trent Bridge

From Mr Jeff Elder

Sir, The ferocious bowling of Allan Donald to Michael Atherton from round the wicket at Trent Bridge on Sunday after the tea interval raises the question yet again as to the legitimacy of the very short-pitched ball aimed at the batsman's head (the so-called "throat ball").

In football, if a player goes for the man, not the ball, it is a foul and the referee has the sanction of the yellow or red card. Why not something equivalent in cricket? From head-high upwards, the batsman has no practical chance of a scoring shot, hence it would seem appropriate to deem such a ball a no ball, at the same time eliminating the prospect of the batsmen being at risk getting out whilst trying to get his head out of the way — hardly a "fair" means of dismissal.

Yours faithfully,  
JEFF ELDER,  
High Oaks, Cookham Dean,  
Berkshire SL6 9UP.

### Watery grave

From Mr John B. Griffin

Sir, In June, at Sheffield, Tyldesley Swimming Club's Under-16s beat Cheltenham 10-9 in the final of the ASA junior water polo competition — the first national trophy in the club's 122-year history. The local free paper apart, this was ignored by the Press.

A small mining community, Tyldesley was the second town in Lancashire to acquire a public swimming baths, in 1865. For whatever reason, a strong water polo tradition developed. As a boy in the late 1940s, every Monday evening in summer I was in the crowded baths to cheer on Tyldesley's first team as, in the Northern League, they enter-

tain the likes of Leeds Leander, Bradford Dolphins and Hyde Seal. Then, in the North West, there were scores of water polo teams: now there are only five or six. Tyldesley play in the national league — no sponsors here, no big crowds any longer.

Water polo is an Olympic sport. It is arguably the most physically demanding of all team games. It is fast, vigorous and skilful and always exciting to watch — but sports thrive these days only with media publicity and water polo gets none. This must be a big factor in its decline in recent years.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN B. GRIFFIN,  
9 Oakwood Drive,  
Leigh WN7 3LZ.

By any other name

From Mr Peter Smith

Sir, Since the second day of the Open Championship golf at Royal Birkdale, we have had a plethora of puns, good, bad and indifferent, on the surname of Justin Rose. Saturday Sport today (July 25) has no less than four punning headlines about his exploits.

Puns are a legitimate form of literary conceit, but tire-some when carried to excess. Is it not time for the headline writers to give us, and the young prodigy himself, a break?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER SMITH,  
Winchelsea,  
East Sussex, TN36 4HX

### This week in THE TIMES



■ Tomorrow  
How high is Tim Henman, above, rising in the world of tennis after playing Andre Agassi in the final in Los Angeles?

■ Thursday  
Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, gauges the mood at Headingley as England bid to end a 12-year wait for a full series victory.

■ Friday  
The countdown to the football season continues with a club-by-club guide to the Nationwide League.

■ Saturday  
In an exclusive extract from his forthcoming book, David Ellery looks at the lessons for referees after the World Cup finals.

SCHOOLS SPORT

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SPORT

IN SCHOOLS

Brooks hit ball

Lane flying



**FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN PARIS**

**The Times car, with reporter at the wheel, sets off for another eventful day following the riders in Tour de France.**

# OS goes 0

## Black pay

### for their lack of invention

#### Speedway

##### ups the pace

###### series success



## Seven reasons why North Atlantic stocks are in such decline

# SOS goes out — Save Our Salmon

Brian Clarke says that alarm bells are ringing now that the extent of the pressures on the king of fish are beginning to strike home

The news that salmon catches in England and Wales dropped by 40 per cent on their long-term average last year and, in the same period, that the fish managed to spawn at just 60 per cent of the levels necessary to ensure its future would normally be about as newsworthy as dog bites man.

The figures are merely the latest measures of a decline that has been going on for years. Anglers have been up in arms about it, governments have been pilloried about it, I have chronicled it and yet the 1997 figures have struck the public consciousness in a way that such figures have not done so before.

The difference has been made by the Environment Agency's (EA) announcement that it is looking at a wide range of options in an attempt to halt the decline — and that high among them are restrictions on angling. Specific options being discussed include a ban not just on net but rod fishing until early summer

**Options include a ban on net and rod until early summer**

and a rule requiring anglers to return to the water any fish that they do manage to land — at least for part of the year.

Anglers scarcely know whether to laugh or cry, but there is a strong disposition towards the latter. The EA's political master, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), has consistently taken the side of the commercial fishing lobby against anglers' conservationists.

Despite all this voluntary action, the MAFF, through the EA, has refused point-blank to limit the catches of commercial netmen. Each year, nets laid close to the coast and near river mouths have been scooping up around 70 per cent of the total catch in England and Wales — many of them fish that anglers have paid to set free. One fishery alone, employing just 81 netmen off the

North East coast, takes an average of 25,000 salmon a year — twice the total annual catch by all anglers in England and Wales combined.

Against this background and because of the impact that it would have on rural communities that depend on salmon angling, rod fishermen and owners will resist any attempt to bracket them with commercial netmen — and any attempt to pose wholesale bans on river angling.

The Salmon and Trout Association (S & TA), the sports most articulate lobby group, will have spoken for many when it called for a ban on all net fishing before June 1, as a first step — and for the immediate closure of the netting operation in the North East, which it describes as "obscene" in the circumstances. The S & TA also said that it would support restrictions — presumably selective, because not all rivers have problems to the same extent — on the numbers of fish that

anglers could take and mandatory catch-and-release programmes where appropriate.

As ever, of course, when arguments become polarised and frustration mounts, there is a danger that the essential issue becomes lost. The issue at the heart of this debate is not United Kingdom salmon catchers, whether by nets or rods. The real issue is that salmon numbers throughout the North Atlantic are being driven down by a wide range of pressures, some of them man-made and some beyond man's control.

The principal factors were listed in an "accord" promoted by Britain's Atlantic Salmon Trust and the United States' Atlantic Salmon Federation when Nasco met in June — and helped to concentrate minds. They are:

1. Poor spawning and production of young salmon in rivers (largely a pollution and habitat problem).

2. The impact of salmon farming on wild salmon (including disease issues and the inter-breeding of escaped farm fish with wild fish).

3. The impact on salmon of high-seas netting targeted at other species (including inadvertent catches of salmon and erosion of the food chain on which salmon depend).

4. The impact on stocks and individual rivers of high-seas fisheries.

5. Poor survival in the sea, probably because of changes in temperatures and currents.

6. Predation — typically on young salmon by birds and on adult salmon by seals.

7. The way that salmon catches are managed in rivers.

Of the seven, only the fourth and the last get real time on the riverbank. The other five have to be worth a nod.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.



This Tamar scene could soon be a much rarer sight

## RUGBY UNION

# All Blacks pay for their lack of invention

New Zealand ..... 23  
Australia ..... 27

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHAT now must we make of the relationship between the much-touted Super 12 tournament and success at the highest level of international rugby? Two months ago, two New Zealand provinces, Canterbury and Auckland, contested the Super 12 final and the stage was set for the All Blacks to sustain their domination of the tri-nations tournament.

Their defeat in Christchurch on Saturday, however, means they will finish bottom of the table in a tournament that will be decided when Australia meet South Africa in Johannesburg on August 22. The All

Hart under pressure ..... 31

Blacks' third successive reverse also signalled the loss of the Bledisloe Cup, even though they must face Australia once more, in Sydney on August 28.

Had their goal-kicking been better, they might have won their previous tri-nations games in Melbourne and Wellington, but this time there was no such excuse. For 78 minutes, Australia were plainly the better team, scoring four tries to none. Late touchdowns by Christian Cullen and Jonah Lomu only put a gloss on the scoreboard.

Wherever the tri-nations trophy goes, this has already been a triumphant year for Australian rugby. Rod Macqueen, their coach, gambled on playing a footballer at fly half — and how Stephen Larkham, previously a full

back, wing or scrum half, has repaid him. Matt Burke has returned full of running after injury and Tom Bowden, at 22, is maturing fast in his first international season in the second row.

"It was a very polished performance for a player just starting off at five-eighths [fly half]," Macqueen said of Larkham. "He has made the position his own now." Larkham's confidence has also allowed George Gregan to recover form, the scrum half making some masterly decisions.

There is a creativity about Australia that their rivals have yet to show. This tri-nations has been dominated by defence and old-fashioned international virtues rather than the frenetic pace of Super 12 matches, a development that suits Australia's physical and mental abilities.

Andrew Mehrtens passed 400 international points for New Zealand, but, lacking the concussed Josh Kromfield, they turned over twice as much ball as Australia and paid the penalty.

SCORERS: New Zealand: Tries: Cullen (70min), Lomu (82). Conversions: Mehrtens (2). Penalty goals: Mehrtens (3:35, 53, 60). Australia: Tries: Bowden (7), Burke (45), Lita (45), Larkham (71). Conversions: Sales (2). Penalty goals: Sales (57).

SCORING SEQUENCE: New Zealand first: 0-5, 3-5, 3-10 (half-time), 3-17, 8-17, 6-23, 9-30, 9-37, 16-37, 16-37.

NEW ZEALAND: C. M. Cullen (Wellington); J. W. Wilson (Dunedin); M. A. Meyerhoff (Christchurch); W. J. Little (North Harbour); J. T. Lomu (Canterbury); A. P. Mehrtens (Canterbury); J. W. Marshall (Canterbury); G. W. Dowd (Auckland); M. C. H. Hoel (Otago); A. D. Oliver (Otago); O. M. Brown (Auckland); I. G. Jones (North Harbour); R. M. Brodie (Auckland); M. J. Jones (Auckland); M. P. Carter (Auckland); S. M. Robertson (Canterbury); S. D. C. Randall (Dunedin).

AUSTRALIA: M. D. Sales (New South Wales); J. S. Little (Queensland); D. J. Horne (Queensland); T. J. Hosen (Queensland); J. W. C. Roff (Australian Capital Territory); S. Larkham (ACT); G. M. Gregan (ACT); J. Crowley (Queensland); P. N. Keane (NSW); A. T. Blakes (NSW); J. A. Sales (Queensland); T. M. Jones (NSW); M. J. Gough (ACT); D. J. Wilson (Queensland); T. V. Kulu (Queensland); V. O. Chibwe (NSW); M. M. G.

Referee: W. D. Brown (Wales).

## SPEEDWAY

# Hurry ups the pace for series success

BY TONY HOARE

ENGLAND wrapped up the international series against Australia with an emphatic win at Eastbourne on Saturday night. Against many expectations, England won 56-40, putting them 2-0 up in the three-match series.

Martin Dugard, the Eastbourne team captain, and Joe Screen were the mainstays of the victory, with crucial support coming from Paul Hurry, the Oxford rider who filled the reserve berth. Hurry scored ten points and won the deciding race by overtaking Ryan Sullivan, of Australia, with a lap to go.

Dave Jessup, the England manager, paid tribute to Hurry after the match. "Paul was a trump card for us; he has a very low average score in the league, something like six, but he scored far more than that for us tonight," Jessup said. "If he is more inspired by riding for England, then that is fine by me."

"Winning this match was always going to be a struggle, but the guys have done a superb job."

Australia struggled. Craig Boyce, their captain, scored only one point and Ryan Sullivan, who rides in the world championship grand prix series, managed just two.

□ No British riders finished on the rostrum at the world under-21 championship in Poland on Saturday. The highest Briton was Leigh Latham in fifth place with nine points, followed by Scott Nicholls and Lee Richardson on eight. Andre Compton was in fourteenth position with three points.

Robert Dados of Poland won the title after a run-off against Krzysztof Jablonski, his compatriot. Matej Ferjan, of Slovenia, who rode for Belle Vue in the Elite League at the start of the season, was third.

30p

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CHANGING TIMES











# LAW

Passing the exam was easy, says Nick Armstrong, who explores why lawyers need to be made out of heavy mettle

If you listen closely this morning, you might just hear 6,500 young lawyers start breathing again. Throughout the country, envelopes are landing on doormats bringing this year's legal practice course (LPC) results.

About 5,500 will have passed the course first time, a further 1,000 can expect to pass on a re-sit and about 4,700 will have secured a training contract by September, when most law firms start the two-year vocational training that leads to qualification as a solicitor.

The 800 who did not get jobs are in trouble. They are highly qualified, but for only one job. They are highly motivated, but they are competing for work with the 1,100 or so who did not get jobs last year and the 2,000-odd from the year before. They thought that they were entering a high-earning profession, but they now have debts of up to £20,000 and no income. They have gambled and lost.

Only the legal profession asks its recruits to place such a bet. Only the legal profession expects students to undertake and fund their training without providing an income. The LPC costs up to £6,600 in fees

alone and in some cases that figure is rising by more than 6 per cent a year.

Even those with jobs will have debts incurred during the LPC: trainee salaries are often just high enough to make undergraduate loans repayable. Then there are the commercial loans used for the LPC. If the law firm is also a lender, it will want repayment during the training period. The result is crippling repayments. Trainees may face other problems. Ten per cent of trainees suffer from discrimination or harassment at work, prompting a Trainee Solicitors' Group (TSG) helpline. Several weeks ago that helpline took its first suicide call. Two weeks later, it took its second. On the helpline, we hear from trainees being asked to take unethical shortcuts at work, and dismissed when

they refuse. Sometimes, the abuse is sexually and racially motivated. I have heard of the word "nigger" used by a solicitor against a trainee.

The Law Society is looking at tightening up monitoring of firms that take the trainees, but, ultimately, monitoring requires a complaint, and few trainees are willing to make one. The problems arising on the helpline are, of course, very specific. But they can sometimes reflect issues of more general application.

Overwork is a common problem among trainees and young solicitors. A recent report suggested that 39 per cent of trainees would not join the solicitors' profession if they had their time again and overwork was cited as a cause. Another report revealed a 40 per cent

turnover of assistant solicitors at City law firms. Hours worked and other quality-of-life answers were given. Solicitors are rejecting the traditional pressures of private practice and opting instead for life in-house, life in academe or life completely outside the field.

Salaries do not always compensate for these pressures. Contrary to popular belief, most solicitors are not highly paid. A Law Society salary survey two years ago reported an average salary for solicitors (excluding partners) of £24,000. This dropped to £20,000 in firms with more than a quarter of fee income from legal aid.

Another issue for those entering the solicitors' profession is job security. This varies according to which area of law you want to specialise in, and specialisms that were attrac-

tive a year or so ago are less so now. For example, no one coming through the system now should ignore the government proposals to reform civil justice and legal aid. They will affect not only the choice of specialism, but the choice of firm.

Most commentators agree that the proposals will favour the large practices. Even those trainees working in large City firms, traditionally considered a more secure area of practice, are subject to these changes. Commercial and corporate work is booming at present, but everyone remembers what happened to commercial property during the last recession. Given the prediction of another recession, the smart money in legal recruitment is probably on insolvency work.

Not all of these changes are threats. For lawyers prepared to watch market changes, opportunities are opening up. The incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights, the *Fairness at Work* White Paper and the Competitiveness Bill vie with each other to be the next big thing. The Lord Chancellor's proposals to extend rights of audience to solicitors on qualification represent another opportunity. Regulation of the world is in-



About 4,500 lawyers will have passed the legal practice course exam this year

creasing, but in some areas, the regulation of the legal profession is decreasing. The key to succeeding in the profession is spotting these developments and positioning oneself accordingly. The problem for those

tentatively opening their post this morning is getting that chance. Unfortunately, debt, maltreatment and arbitrariness still play too great a part in determining who those lucky few will be.

Dr Armstrong, a trainee at Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield, chairs the TSG, and is a Visiting Fellow at Nottingham Law School. For more details of the TSG, contact Rita Oscar, 0171-320 5794.

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### BA (HONS) BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION LLB (HONS) DEGREE IN LAW



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# Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

SEC ID	Company	Price	Change	Yield	PE
--------	---------	-------	--------	-------	----

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
5365	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5366	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5367	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5368	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5369	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5370	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5371	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5372	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5373	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17
5374	Alfred Dunhill	50	-1	1.5	17

BANKS					
2230	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2231	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2232	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2233	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2234	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2235	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2236	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2237	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2238	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17
2239	ABN-AMRO	100	-1	1.5	17

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST					
7804	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7805	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7806	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7807	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7808	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7809	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7810	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7811	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7812	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17
7813	Beck's	50	-1	1.5	17

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
1200	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1201	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1202	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1203	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1204	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1205	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1206	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1207	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1208	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1209	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

ELECTRICITY					
1210	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1211	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1212	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1213	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1214	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1215	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1216	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1217	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1218	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1219	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

BUILDING MATERIALS					
1220	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1221	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1222	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1223	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1224	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1225	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1226	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1227	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1228	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1229	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

ELECTRONIC & ELECT					
1230	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1231	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1232	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1233	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1234	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1235	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1236	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1237	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1238	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1239	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

CHEMICALS					
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1241	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1242	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1243	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1244	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1245	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1246	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1247	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1248	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1249	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

CONSTRUCTION					
1250	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1251	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1252	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1253	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1254	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1255	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1256	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1257	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1258	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1259	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

ENGINEERING					
1260	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1261	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1262	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1263	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1264	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1265	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1266	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1267	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1268	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1269	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

INSURANCE					
1270	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1271	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1272	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1273	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1274	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1275	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1276	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1277	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1278	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1279	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

DISTRIBUTORS					
1280	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1281	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1282	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1283	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1284	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1285	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1286	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1287	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1288	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1289	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES					
1290	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1291	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1292	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1293	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1294	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1295	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1296	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1297	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1298	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1299	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

INVESTMENT TRUSTS					
1300	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1301	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1302	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1303	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1304	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1305	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1306	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1307	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1308	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1309	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

FOOD MANUFACTURERS					
1310	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1311	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1312	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1313	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1314	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1315	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1316	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1317	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1318	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1319	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

HEALTHCARE					
1320	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1321	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1322	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1323	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1324	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1325	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1326	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1327	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1328	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1329	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT					
1330	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1331	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1332	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1333	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1334	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1335	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1336	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1337	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1338	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1339	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

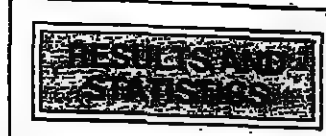
LEISURE & HOTELS					
1340	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1341	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1342	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1343	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1344	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1345	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1346	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1347	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1348	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1349	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

OIL & GAS					
1350	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1351	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1352	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1353	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1354	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1355	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1356	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1357	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1358	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1359	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

RETAILERS, FOOD					
1360	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1361	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1362	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1363	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1364	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1365	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1366	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1367	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1368	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1369	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17

WATER					
1370	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1371	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1372	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1373	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1374	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1375	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1376	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17
1377	Adams	50	-1	1.5	17





COMPANIES MICHAEL CLARK

# Bid rumoured as Rank prepares to take holiday from its lean years



Andrew Teare, head of Rank, the group owning Butlin's, will face questions tomorrow

**TODAY**  
Interim: Anglo & Overseas Trust, HSBC Holdings, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, Pearson, Final: Filtronic, Spring Group, Ultra Electronics, Economic statistics: Confederation of British Industry small and medium enterprise trends survey, UK July provisional M0, UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply July manufacturing sector survey.

**TOMORROW**  
Interim: NatWest Bank, BP (22), Croda International, General Accident, Linden, Mayflower Corp, Rank Group, Final: AIM Group, Northern Recruitment Group, Pifco Holdings, Economic statistics: Japan May household spending, UK Halifax July house price survey, UK and July official reserves.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Interim: Woolwich, Cadbury Schweppes, GKN, Inspec Group, London & St Lawrence Investment Corp, Skandia Insurance, Transport Development Group, Final: Stewart & Wight, Economic statistics: Italy July CPI, UK June industrial and manufacturing output, UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply July service sector survey, Bank of England MPC two-day meeting begins.

**THURSDAY**  
Interim: Royal & Sun Alliance, Barclays, Elements, KBC Advanced Technologies, Reed Elsevier, Royal Dutch-Shell, Telewest Communications, Wywale Garden Centres, Zaneca, Final: Tetra, Economic statistics: UK second-quarter housing starts, UK second-quarter new construction orders, UK CBI July distributive trades survey, UK SMMT July new car registrations, Bank of England announces interest rates decision.

**FRIDAY**  
Interim: Standard Chartered, Alliance & Leicester, Infobank International Holdings, Johnson Service Group, Rank Group, Unilever, Final: none scheduled, Economic statistics: No UK data scheduled for release.

**RANK GROUP:** The shares were chased sharply higher on Friday, in response to claims that several US capital venture funds were poised to bid for the leisure group. No doubt questions will be addressed to Andrew Teare, chief executive, when the group unveils interim results tomorrow. Brokers forecast a modest improvement in pre-tax profits to £90 million, up from £87 million last time. Earnings per share should be up from 5.2p to 5.5p and there is a feeling in the City that these figures will mark a turning point for the group after a sharp decline in its fortunes in recent years.

The Deluxe cinema chain should show a reasonable recovery after last year's dismal performance, and benefits of the opening programme should become evident at Hard Rock Cafe. **HSBCHOLDINGS:** Dogged by Far East events in recent months, HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, is first up to the plate this week when it reports today, in what has so far been an eventful reporting season for banks. Although the stock has fallen sharply since autumn, when the turmoil in South-East Asia erupted, brokers believe that the region's economic troubles will deepen, further harming earnings of the world's biggest bank. BT Alex Brown forecasts a 6 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £2.45 billion, while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson is even more bearish, suggesting an 11 per cent fall in first-half profits.

This will be the first time that HSBC reports in US dollars, rather than sterling. **NATWEST BANK:** The group has much to prove after last year's terrible performance. Although analysts are not convinced that the bank will hit its year-end target of a 17.5 per cent return on equity, they forecast a rise of between 17 per cent and nearly 30 per cent in interim profits to, at most, £865 million.

After last year's disposal of the equities business, the spotlight will be on the remaining investment and wholesale banking division when the group reports tomorrow. Further trading losses are forecast, although much less than the £340 million in 1997. NatWest is expected to reiterate its commitment to a share buyback programme.

**STANDARD CHARTERED:** The bank, reporting on Friday, is likely to unveil a decline in profits, reflecting depressed trading conditions in Asia. Forecasts of the full range from 3 per cent to 10 per cent. Bad debts are also forecast to rise. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson says that the shares have no value over £5. They closed on Friday at 678p.

**WOOLWICH:** Mortgage lenders' core business has come

under great pressure from mutual competitors, so the owners do not look good. BT Alex Brown predicts a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £239 million, when Woolwich reports on Wednesday, but it emphasises that these figures are flattered by last year's conversion costs. Woolwich's share of net new lending will be just 2 per cent, against a natural share of more than 5 per cent.

**BARCLAYS:** The last of the big four clearers to report will do so on Thursday. Forecasts are modest, putting the rise in first-half pre-tax profits at between 1 per cent and 4 per cent, equivalent to £1.32 billion at the top end. Earnings are expected to have been enhanced by the disposal of BZW, the loss-making equities and advisory business. In April Barclays restructured itself into four divisions. This is expected to show clearly in the results.

**ALLIANCE & LEICESTER:** A&L rounds off the bank reporting week, with pre-tax profits forecast to rise by 25 per cent to £223 million. Unlike its peers, A&L has indicated that it has held on to its 4 per cent share of the mortgage market, albeit at the expense of margins. The new bank

may also say on Friday what it intends to do with its surplus capital, estimated at £780 million.

**BRITISH PETROLEUM:** BP's second-quarter net profits, due tomorrow, are likely to fall short of the £582 million of the first quarter and a long way shy of the £738 million in the corresponding period last year. This is almost entirely because of the drop in the oil price from \$18.75 a barrel in last year's second quarter to a \$13.74 average this time round. Earnings per share will drop 27 per cent, to 9.5p. Upstream activities will see realised prices down by \$1.50, but this will be offset to some extent by higher production. Downstream activities will feature a stronger performance from US refining. The Asian crisis will affect chemicals. The payout should rise from 5.5p to 6p.

**SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING:** The oil price is expected to undermine second-quarter results due on Thursday, but the market will be looking for signs of underlying improvement in group performance. Net income is expected to drop from \$1.94 billion in the first quarter to \$1.58 billion, against \$1.93 billion

in last year's second quarter. Upstream will suffer from lower prices and the seasonal downturn in gas sales compared with the first quarter. Downstream will benefit from better refining margins, but there is a question mark over marketing margins.

**UNILEVER:** The strong pound and the woes of South-East Asia will play a big part in second-quarter numbers due on Friday. Pre-tax profits should come in at about £700 million, against £746 million for the corresponding period. However, the impact of currency and Asia will cut earnings per share from 6.3p to 6p.

Revenue growth is likely to be about 2.5 per cent, fuelled by disposals. Volume growth in North America is expected to be strong, helped by recovery at Lipton. European growth should be respectable, with the launch of laundry tablets. Operating margins will have declined after heavy marketing expenditure on successful product launches.

**ZENECA:** Most brokers expect a useful, if unexciting, performance from the pharmaceutical group when it produces half-year results on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are tipped to be £700 million,

against £669 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be up from 47.4p to 50.1p.

Pharmaceutical sales will have enjoyed growth of about 13 per cent, or 20 per cent at constant currency rates, to £1.38 billion, with a big boost possible from high-margin Zestril and Nolvadex. Sales of the new drugs Casodex, Arizidex, Accolate, Serquel and Zomig should grow from £97 million last year to £240 million this time. However, launch costs for the new drugs are likely to lead to a one-point drop in operating margins.

The payout should grow from 13.5p to 14.3p.

**GKN:** Britain's biggest engineer is expected to report pre-tax profits of £220 million to £230 million in interim figures for the six months to June, due on Wednesday. This compares with £203 million for the period last year. Analysts expect a rise in the interim dividend to about 5.4p, against an adjusted 5.3p, which takes into account the recent two-for-one share split. Brokers will look for the group to back up comments last week by its rivals TI and Siebe about the outlook for the engineering sector, which has been clouded by the strong pound and the Asian crisis.

**ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE:** Analysts will be looking carefully at interim results on Thursday that cover the first six months of Bob Mendelsohn's stewardship. BT Alex Brown, the broker, expects bad weather in the UK and the US and Canada to have hit profits. Underlying operating profits are likely to fall 40 per cent to £300 million. A 9 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 7.8p is expected.

**PEARSON:** The media group's first-half numbers, due today, are expected to deliver pre-tax profits between £72 million and £77 million, up from £49.4 million, with a dividend of 8.2p (7.4p). The results will be dominated by questions of strategy after Pearson's recent \$3.6 billion acquisition of Simon & Schuster's educational publishing operations. Analysts say that the deal has added credence to the pledge by Marjorie Scardino, who took over as chief executive 18 months ago, to double the group's value over five years.

**CADBURY SCHWEPPE:** A solid performance is expected in the confectionary and soft drinks group's first-half results on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are expected to be between £250 million and £260 million, up from £236 million. Earnings per share are set to rise from 14.9p to 15.8p. These figures are struck after stripping out the exceptional gain on the sale of CCSE to Coca-Cola Enterprises. The payout should rise from 5.5p to 5.9p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Hopes high for break from rise in base rate

The Monetary Policy Committee meeting, which takes place on Wednesday and Thursday, looms large in a week that otherwise marks the start of the August summer holiday period. The City consensus is that the MPC will not raise rates, although even the most dovish of the economists believe that it will be a close-run thing. The UK economic data to be published this week is not expected to contribute much new thinking to the Bank of England's debates. After last week's dismal CBI industrial trends survey, today's purchasing managers' survey for July and the June industrial production data to be released on Wednesday will only surprise if they prove considerably stronger than expected. MMS International, the economic forecasting group, expects manufacturing output to contract by 0.5 per cent in the month, leaving the annual rate of growth a percentage point lower than a year ago.

Of more interest will be the July purchasing managers' services survey, also published on Wednesday, which should see a further easing in the growth rate, suggesting that the annual rise in services output now stands at a more sustainable 2.5 per cent. The CBI distributive trades survey on Thursday will give the first taste of retailers' performance in July. Most economists expect some improvement from a weak June because of heavy discounting in the summer sales.

Markets will also be keeping an eye on a string of data from the US after last week's surprisingly strong GDP figures. The National Association of Manufacturers index, to be released today, is expected to remain below 50, indicating that US manufacturers are also seeing a fall in output. However, personal income growth is expected to remain buoyant, suggesting that overall domestic demand is still robust.

The *Beige Book*, which will be published on Wednesday, will be closely analysed for evidence of labour market pressures ahead of the next Fed meeting on August 18. The highlight of the week, however, will be the employment statistics that are due to be released on Friday. MMS predicts that July non-farm payrolls will rise by 100,000, compared with 205,000 in June, although this figure has been distorted by the General Motors strike. Hourly earnings are expected to tick up by 0.3 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Meyer, FII Group, Granchester, L Gardner. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Lasmo, Lambert & Horwath, Gresham Computing, Hanover International, Finlist, Sell Robert Walters, Harvey Nichols. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Glaxo Wellcome, Whitbread, Sell McCarthy & Stone, Countryside Properties, Wilson Connolly. The Observer: Buy WPP, Brent International, Hold Gallaher, Avoid Grand Universal Stores, House of Fraser. The Express on Sunday: Buy Provident Financial, Copyright Promotions, Birkby.

Share	Price	Change
Australia	2.78	0.00
Belgium	21.48	0.00
Canada	2.58	0.00
Cyprus	0.58	0.00
Denmark	11.07	0.00
Egypt	0.50	0.00
Finland	0.38	0.00
France	10.25	0.00
Germany	3.07	0.00
Greece	0.38	0.00
Hong Kong	12.28	0.00
Ireland	1.08	0.00
Italy	2.54	0.00
Japan	30.45	0.00
Netherlands	0.57	0.00
Norway	3.18	0.00
Portugal	0.12	0.00
Spain	0.12	0.00
Sweden	13.77	0.00
Switzerland	2.58	0.00
Turkey	48.00	0.00
USA	1.74	0.00

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET									
Code	Low	High	Mid	Vol	Yield	Div	Yield	Div	Yield
101	74	22.20	17.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
102	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
103	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
104	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
105	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
106	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
107	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
108	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
109	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
110	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
111	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
112	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
113	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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156	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
157	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
158	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
159	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
160	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
161	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
162	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
163	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
164	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
165	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
166	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
167	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
168	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
169	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
170	110	16.70	14.00	100	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	



**Goldilocks story.** -  
I must be missing something.  
Several million lemmings cannot  
all be wrong, can they?

**Sir Tom Cowie**, the founder of the transport business now called Arriva, has denied a weekend report that he might be interested in buying its leasing division. Arriva had no comment to make on suggestions that it was on full takeover bid alert. But it is believed that neither Sir Tom nor Neil Pykett, another former executive, have any interest in becoming involved again.

Only 10 per cent said they did not use any form of flexible working patterns.

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—	A020	Days Out in Britain & Ireland	£23.99	£12.99
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easily: 2. Qxb6+ Qh7: 3. Qxb6+ Rg7: 4. Qxe5 and wins.

**TABLE 1**



THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

## CORPORATE PROFILE: Thames Water

Thames Water is the largest water and sewerage services group in the UK by customer base, serving 11.9 million domestic and commercial customers in London and the Thames Valley. It also has interests in international contracting, water products and services, property and insurance.

The company was privatised in December 1989 at a price of 240p per share. As the market closed on Friday the share price was £11.35, giving the company a market capitalisation of £4.3 billion.

Heading a slim board is Sir Robert Clarke, chairman, who was appointed a director in 1988, before privatisation, but only took up his present post in 1994, making it a full-time job two years later.

Bill Alexander, chief executive since October last year, joined the board in 1994. He was appointed managing director of the core utility business in February 1992 and among his responsibilities was the construction of the Thames Water Ring Main, which distributes water in huge quantities around London.

David Luffman, finance and planning director since 1987, joined the old Thames Water Authority in 1974.

The group has four non-executives. Sir Christopher Leaver, vice-chairman, was chairman from May 1993 to March 1994. He is also a director of Patridge Properties and Dryhew.

Roger Carr is the chief executive of Williams. He is also a director of Bess, Newmont and Landau Forte College and is a member of the CBI Economic Affairs Committee.

Tony Hobson is group director (finance) of Legal & General. He is the chairman of Thames Water's audit committee.

Lesley Knox is deputy chairman of British Linen Bank. She is also a non-executive at Bank of Scotland, Scottish Provident and Dawson International.

THE lot of a monopoly supplier should be an easy one, especially if your stock in trade droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven. For this reason, to prevent them from using their monopoly position to exploit the customers, suppliers such as Thames Water are governed by a strict system of price regulation that tells them how much they can charge.

The ten water and sewerage companies in England and Wales were privatised in 1989, allowing the first five-year pricing regime to be imposed. The third will therefore have to be in place by April 2000, and the Office of Water Regulation, or Ofwat, is due to publish its preliminary suggestions in October on what formula should be imposed until 2005.

The last two regimes may have been tight, the current one allowing price rises of 1.5 per cent plus the ongoing rate of inflation to fund needed investment, but they have not prevented Thames's share price, in line with other water companies, from more than quadrupling since privatisation. In addition the company has handed back £530 million to shareholders, paid half of a £231 million one-off windfall tax to the Government, and set a pace of dividend payment rises that has the market forecasting further growth of 12 per cent in real terms over the next few years.

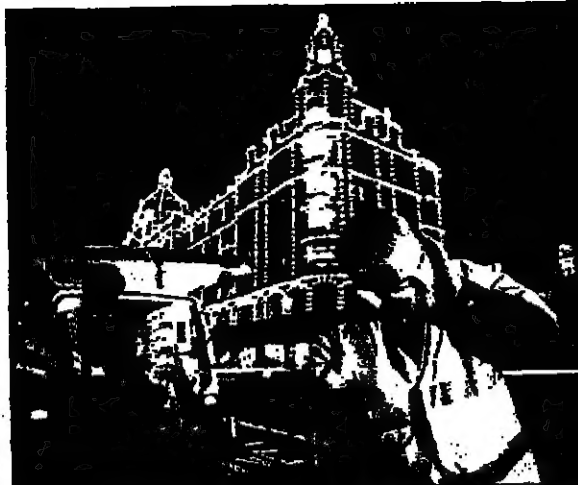
But the indications are that this time around the regulator may go for a tighter regime. A paper from Pamure Gordon, for example, suggests a one-off price cut of perhaps 10 per cent on water tariffs in 2000, and there will certainly be a new formula that reverses the existing set-up by requiring Thames to pass on to consumers real tariff cuts. Thames is responding to this by increasing earnings from its non-core businesses, which are outside the authority of the regulator. These include international contracting, the export of the company's experience in water treatment. Thames is helping to build water supply systems in a range of cities worldwide.

The aim is to earn a substantial proportion of profits from this and other non-regulated sources. Thames has set a target of 10 per cent by the year 2000 and is already close to achieving this.

This is classic business textbook stuff, using earnings from the core business to fund diversification into other, are-



Sir Robert Clarke, left, is chairman of Thames Water, which is trying to cut leakage rates, top centre. Bill Alexander, top right, is leading the group overseas again and joined John Prescott, bottom right, the Deputy Prime Minister, and representatives of the Shanghai Waterworks Company on a site visit



as. There is only one problem: Thames has tried this before, and the cost was £75 million, one chief executive and an unquantified amount of its reputation on the stock market.

In the years after privatisation Thames bought a collection of businesses outside its core utility business largely focused on international contracting. The two main ones were Portals Water Treatment and Uttag, a German contractor. Both companies turned out to have entered into several disastrous contracts.

In March 1996 the company had to admit its mistake. Mike Hoffman, the chief executive and seen as the architect of this expansion who sadly died earlier this year, left with a £500,000 payoff. The offending businesses were sold, and Thames took a £95 million write-off to cover costs, a figure that turned out to be overly pessimistic. Bill Alexander,

who was then running the core utility, stepped into Mr Hoffman's shoes. But the company is now engaged in eight separate contracts in places as far apart as Indonesia, Scotland and Turkey, providing and in due course operating new water supply systems.

This time, says Mr Alexander, it will be different. "We made some mistakes we aren't going to make again. We're limiting our investment and development so it is to be funded from our profits." This time the projects are being undertaken as part of a consortium.

Mr Alexander concedes that there are two constraints to further expansion: the need not to divert management time and effort from the looming Ofwat review, and the need to reassure the stock market that expansion is not too swift.

The Asian crisis, and the troubles in Indonesia, proved again that building water plants abroad is more risky than supplying consumers in London and the South East. The contract was abruptly cancelled, and two weeks later Thames was reinstated on the same terms.

In the past financial year the group reported a £481 million operating profit. Only £41 million came from non-regulated areas, half from property and insurance and the rest split between products, services and the international side.

Although the company has recently been linked with a local electricity distributor,

Southern Electricity, it has so far eschewed one other route for expansion by water companies, the purchase by or merger with a local power supplier.

Mergers between water companies are currently frowned upon by the regulator. But Mr Alexander is convinced this will change.

"I think the rules will change because, if the regulator wants cost efficiencies, that's the only way they will appear." Thames will go into negotiations with the regulator on the price review insisting that the company is different from its nine peers in England and Wales and has some claim to special treatment. This rests on its duty to serve the capital. The assets, the pipework and reservoirs, are in different states of repair. There are more connections per mile than any other water company.

This is why the company, at

least until recently, has wasted more of its water getting it to the customers than any of its peers.

"People recognise our assets are different," says Mr Alexander. "What we will do is get leakage down to the economic level."

But challenges to the core utility do not finish with the need to prevent wastage and wrest a reasonable deal out of the regulator. Thames is embarking on a rolling programme of fitting meters to homes, a move that could increase the cost of water to many customers.

There is also this summer's row over "fat cat" salaries and the threat by the Treasury somehow to link boardroom pay and water bills. "We're an unusual company," says Mr Alexander. "People need to trust the company that supplies them. We need to do everything possible to retain that trust. We have the ability to become public enemy number one quite quickly."

Crisp Consulting said that, by comparison with other FTSE 100 companies, Mr Alexander's pay package—a basic salary of £219,000 in 1997-98, with a bonus, share options and long-term incentives raising that to an estimated £500,000—was par for someone of his limited experience. The four non-executive directors are underpaid, said Crisp.

Integrity Works, the consultant, said: "The company has a well-developed statement of vision and values and is developing a set of business principles. Like other utilities with growing interests overseas, part of its challenge will be to ensure these principles are maintained in the face of conflicting standards prevalent in other parts of the world."

MARTIN WALLER

### OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression!	6/10
Fat-cat quotient	9/10
Financial record	4/10
Share performance	7/10
Attitude to staff	3/10
Strength of brand	3/10
Innovation	6/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	8/10
Future prospects	5/10
Total	64/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by *Business Week*. The fat-cat quotient, in which the bottom 10 per cent of scores are highest, is provided by *Crisp Consulting*.

## Gloomy economic news brings consumer caution

TALK of collapsing sales on the high street is "unnecessarily alarmist", claims Verdict, the retail consultancy, although over the longer term shoppers are becoming increasingly choosy (Martin Waller writes).

"Shoppers are not slashing their spending as they did in the early 1990s," says Verdict in a report on retail demand published today. But consumers are reacting with caution to bad economic news. The

consultancy is forecasting real growth in consumer spending this year of just 2.2 per cent, after last year's leap of 5.2 per cent. "The doom and gloom that pervades the retail sector has moved to do with excessive expectations and overoptimism," said Verdict.

A quarter of the UK's shopping transactions, worth £40 billion a year, will have migrated outside normal shopping hours by 2010, according to a survey sponsored by BT.

## Delay leaves Pronto! in limbo

By JON ASHWORTH



Michael: controls needed.

BRITAIN'S first rapid-draw lottery company has seen its plans thrown into disarray after the Government moved to restrict gaming in pubs, but failed to say when the changes would apply.

Inter Lotto (UK), promoter of Pronto!, thinks that legislation aimed at restricting pub lotteries to one draw a day may not take effect until 2000, leaving it directionless. Alan Michael, the Home Office

Minister, said last week that controls would be imposed "but only when the legislative process allows". Inter Lotto says this is unfair on players and on UK charities, which gain 20p from every £1 ticket. Mr Michael said: "For social policy reasons we consider there is a clear need for controls on the frequency of on-line lottery draws."

Inter Lotto says there is no evidence that rapid-draw lotteries

encourage hard gambling. Of 127 organisations to respond to government consultation, just 46 supported legislation.

An appeal to the European Court is possible. Roy Fisher, managing director of Inter Lotto, said: "Two in three respondents were opposed to legislation." The Government has faced vocal lobbying from bookmakers, fruit machine vendors and Camelot, the National Lottery operator.

## Emerging markets are losing their appeal

FUND managers are rapidly cooling on the emerging markets, and sentiment is weaker than at any time since the Asian crisis first emerged, according to a survey by Burson-Marsteller, the consultant (Martin Waller writes).

In all, 73 per cent of fund managers were negative about the emerging markets, while the rest were merely neutral. This result, covering the second quarter of this year, is in stark contrast to the survey's

findings the previous quarter, when 40 per cent were positive and only 35 per cent negative.

Fund managers now believe the situation for many emerging markets will deteriorate further before any improvement in the medium term.

However, some thought the present slump on emerging markets provided a number of buying opportunities. "Investors will come back to those markets underpinned by strong economies," said one manager.

Wherever your business is going, it pays to be ahead of your time.

Businesses that are ahead of their time are the ones that prosper. They are the ones that are first to see the need for change, and they are the ones that are first to act. They are the ones that are first to see the need for change, and they are the ones that are first to act. They are the ones that are first to see the need for change, and they are the ones that are first to act.

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Cabal, led by Sally O'Sullivan, chief executive, Andrew Sutcliffe, left, and Steven Hunter, has ambitious plans to launch new magazine titles

# Youth appeal is key for a new kid on the block

If things had gone according to plan, Sally O'Sullivan would now be chief executive of IPC Magazines. Instead, she is sitting in a pub on London's Great Portland Street mulling over the events which led her to quit IPC, where she had edited a listful of its best-known glossy titles, to set up a rival company.

Until now O'Sullivan has refused to say whether she was, as rumoured, behind one of the unsuccessful bids for IPC, which Reed Elsevier put up for sale at the end of last year. Now, with the battle scars beginning to heal, she will admit that she had teamed up with Electra Fleming,

Sally O'Sullivan bears the scars of a failed battle for IPC Magazines. But Sarah Cunningham found the successful editor taking on her rivals in a fresh role

IPC she will not say, and with the benefit of hindsight she appears almost relieved: "Now I'm so happy that we've gone down this route, that I look at IPC and its £860 million debt..." She is not alone to wonder at the sums of money involved in the deal, and many in the industry think the price paid for IPC was too high. She may have had a lucky escape. The route she took instead was to leave IPC in June — with smiles on all sides, she says. She then considered using venture capital backing to buy another magazine company, but — on the advice of an entrepreneurial friend — decided instead to found her

own magazine company, called Cabal Communications. It has a more manageable debt of £2.2 million, is based on the distinctly unglorious Euston Road — near the pub where she was talking — and will be led by some of the team she built up at IPC. "In honest truth we presented [for the IPC bid] what would have been, and is, an extremely hot editing team," she said. It includes Andrew Sutcliffe, who was editor-in-chief of IPC's music and sport division, and who is managing director of Cabal. A total of 20 staff have now been recruited, and up to 70 will be brought on board for the launch of 12 magazines within a year.

The money for the venture has come from Ms O'Sullivan's wealthier friends, including a lawyer, two publishers, a gambler and a "very successful entrepreneur". She will not be drawn further on who her new backers are, and she refuses to say anything about how much money she and her husband, Charles Wilson, the former editor of *The Times*, have put up. She will say, though, that all 17 of the founding members of staff at Cabal have put money into the venture. People who have money and are not her friends should probably count themselves lucky as she comes across as someone to whom it would be very difficult to say no. She is the sort of person for whom the cliché "vivacious redhead" could have been invented. Her conversation is punctuated by the clacking of her extravagant amber ear-rings, and phone calls are carried out at high volume on her mobile. Still, she has had an extraordinary year and starting up a magazine company at this stage in the economic cycle is a brave move. The adrenalin that is clearly coursing

through her will be needed to get Cabal off the ground and the first of its magazines on the newsagents' racks. The view in the industry is that, if anyone can do it, it is O'Sullivan. She has an outstanding track record, having edited *Good Housekeeping*, *Options*, *Ideal Home*, *Harpers & Queen* and *She*. The intention now is for Cabal to launch at least four contract magazines, four small specialist titles on sport and health — some of which will be distributed via direct mail — and four larger consumer titles in the next year. The latter, naturally, will get the most attention. Ms O'Sullivan intends to launch one weekly and two monthly titles before Christmas, and a third monthly after. She is starting with two "youth" magazines, aimed at the 12 to 18-year-old market: one for girls and one for boys. One reason for the ambitious programme of launches is that Ms O'Sullivan thinks it is in some ways less risky. "We do not have to launch 12, we could even cancel the after-Christmas launch but, this way, we are spreading the risk. What we really need is good as the people who work with you. We understand that a good company is a jigsaw puzzle. You have to bring up teams. It is what Andrew and I understand instinctively." However much they feel they can bring to magazine publishing, they cannot force people to buy their products, and this is without doubt a difficult time to launch. She is undaunted: "In a recession — and I have lived through two — good things survive."

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## CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar  
1.6355 (-0.0232)  
German mark  
2.9091 (-0.0412)  
Exchange index  
104.2 (-1.3)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share  
3706.2 (-96.8)  
FTSE 100  
5837.0 (-55.3)  
New York Dow Jones  
8883.29 (-54.07)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave  
16378.97 (+17.06)

DON'T MISS YOUR FREE X-FILES MAGAZINE

## Zen and the art of mowing

The Day That Changed My Life  
BBC2, 7.30pm

The series with the title that explains it all returns with the story of Paul Adler-Collins, who was a soldier in the Household Cavalry when the blow fell. It came in the unlikely shape of a small piece of stone catapulted from the blade of a lawnmower. The missile entered his leg, smashing his calf muscle and set off a bone infection and gangrene. He was discharged from the Army, invested in a transport company which failed, lost his wife, children and house and had a mental breakdown. All this followed a deeply unhappy boyhood, during which he tried to kill himself and ran away from home. Salvation has come through religion. Adler-Collins today is Je Kan, a shaven-headed Buddhist priest who has found peace and purpose running a clinic and school of complementary medicine.



Paul Adler-Collins, now a Buddhist priest, and his wife (BBC2, 7.30pm)

The Temptation Game with Angus Deayton  
BBC1, 10.30pm

Tonight's ragbag of items is loosely linked by the theme of indulgence, or what happens when temptation proves too much. Between quips, Deayton suddenly goes serious and mutters something about people getting hurt. But although this series comes, curiously, from the BBC's religious department, Angus is not in the business of preaching. Least of all is he willing to pass judgement on Adam Perry, the former model famous for a baby poster who has a new career seducing women. Perry's form of indulgence has resulted, we are told, in more than 3,000 conquests. We move on to the Los Angeles Cocophony Society, an excuse for grown men and women to dress up as dogs and salmon, and hear from 19-year-old Chris Trussler, who after a row with his mother sold her car and had a ball on the proceeds.

Sacred Woods  
Channel 4, 11.00pm

Dr Andrew Sherratt, an anthropologist from Oxford University, presents a series on plants that can produce strange effects. His first subject is the distinctive red and white fly agaric mushroom. Siberian tribes have used it for centuries to gain access to the spirit world and in Victorian literature it became associated with fairies and elves. Lewis Carroll's Alice famously nibbled on it to change size. To test the mushroom's properties, and to discover whether the legends stand up, Sherratt leads a couple of volunteers called Ed and Johnny. The experiment is monitored by an American botanist who is willing to believe in the mushroom's mystical powers, and two highly sceptical scientists from Britain. Will Ed and Johnny lead us to another world or is it borkum?

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Trial By Jury  
BBC2, 11.15pm

As with buses you wait for ages and two come at once. We are talking about fictional court cases decided by a jury of viewers. Just as ITV revived the old *Crown Court* idea with *Verdict*, the BBC counters with its version. The difference is that the BBC's judges and counsel are real, which gives the proceedings the ring of authenticity but robs us of the chance to see what our favourite actors look like in wigs. Spread over three successive evenings, *Trial By Jury* sees a detective chief inspector accused of blackmailing a prostitute. Not only does he make use of her services for nothing but she pays him £1,000 a month to protect her premises from police raids. Or so it is alleged. The complication is that she sells her story to a tabloid newspaper in dubious circumstances, giving the defence plenty to chew on. Peter Warlock

## RADIO CHOICE

Interval: The Chinese-American Dream  
Radio 3, 5.20pm

The Chinatown district of New York used to be a small enclave dominated by immigrants from Hong Kong but in 1962, a liberationist immigration laws under John F. Kennedy swelled the numbers and broadened the background. Now Chinatown is a huge area which has swallowed up most of Little Italy. This mid-Prom feature explores both the cultural and musical landmarks of Chinatown and is particularly interesting when it visits the Seneca Citizens' Centre on Mulberry Street. Chinese opera is staged six days a week. The centre has 6,000 members and serves lunch to 300 people every day and its cultural East-West mix is demonstrated by the fact that mah jong and bingo are equally popular.

Diet and Cancer  
Radio 2, various times

Start of a two-day campaign presented by Gaby Roslin. The main programme on the subject today are Jimmy Young (midday) and Richard Atkinson (8.30pm). Roslin appears on Atkinson's programme with her father Clive, who had bowel cancer diagnosed two years ago. Young will be putting questions from listeners to Dr Bill Dolman and Wendy Atkin, the director of a cancer research institute. Others appearing during the two days include Lynn Faulds Wood, the former *Widowmaker* presenter who also had bowel cancer. The campaign is based on the fact that 35 per cent of cancer cases, mostly in the bowel and stomach, are thought to be diet-related. The free, 24-hour helpline is on 0800 022022. Peter Barnard

## RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Moyles 9.00 Mark Goodier 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, Kevin Greening and Zeb Bell present the summer spectacular live from Blackpool. With performances by All Saints, The Vengabus, 12:30pm Mark Goodier 4.30pm Dave Pearce 5.45pm Newsbeat 6.00pm Dave Pearce 6.30pm Lorraine 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 12.00pm The Breakfast 2.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00pm Chris Warren

## WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Stories from the Atlantic 7.30am Omnibus 8.00am News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30am The Village Choir Show 8.40am News (1545 only) News in German 8.10am Focus for Thought 8.15 International Question Time 10.00am 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Record News 10.30am Westway Access 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00am Newsbeat 11.30am Omnibus 12.00am News 12.30pm Jazznet 1.00pm News (1545 only) News in German 1.05pm World Business Report 1.30pm Seven Days 1.45pm Sports Roundup 2.00pm News 3.00pm Outlook 3.30pm Welcome to my World 3.45pm News in German 3.50pm World Business Report 4.15pm News 4.30pm The Multitask Sessions (1545 only) News in German 5.00pm Europe Today 5.30pm World Business Report 5.45pm Britain Today 6.00pm News 6.15pm Proms 6.30pm (1545 only) News in German 7.00pm Newsbeat 7.30pm Good Voice 8.00pm News 8.01pm Outlook 8.25pm Focus for Thought 8.30pm Multitask 18 Live 8.40pm Newsround 10.00pm News 10.05pm World Business Report 10.15pm Britain Today 10.30pm Lorraine of Being 11.00pm Newsbeat 11.30pm Night 11.45pm Sports Roundup 12.00pm News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.30pm Multitask 18 Live 1.00pm Newsbeat 1.45pm Britain Today 2.00pm Newsbeat 2.30pm Seven Days 2.45pm Border Run 3.00pm Newsbeat 3.30pm On Screen 4.00pm News 4.05pm World Business Report 4.15pm Sports Roundup 4.30pm The World Today

## RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Kian Duggan 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00pm Alex Lester 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00pm Big Band Special: Sheila Street 8.15pm The Big Bang 8.30pm Barry Forgie 8.30pm Chris Barber's Jazz Dancers 9.30pm Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll 10.30pm Richard Atkinson 12.05pm Steve Macdonald 3.00am Annie O'Han

## CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 8.00am Kelly Kelly, featuring Record of the Week and the High Flyer 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests 2.00pm Concerto: David (Cello Concerto No 2) 3.00pm James Clack 6.30pm Newsbeat 7.00pm Smooth Classics at Seven 8.00pm Evening Concert: Musgrave (A Night on the Bare Mountain); Richard Strauss (An Alpine Symphony); Britten (Montezuma Suite); Cadenot (Dances); Hovhannes (Symphony No 6) 11.00pm Michael Knapton 2.00am Concerto (1) 3.00pm Mark Giffiths

## RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00am Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00pm Russco and Co 4.00pm Nationwide. Julian Worrier rounds up the latest news and sport 7.00pm News Extra, presented by David Mitchell 7.30pm Cricket Legends: Lord's: Caroline 8.00pm Interesting, Very Interesting. Sports comedy and chat, with Garry Richardson, Peter Baskin and guests 9.00pm Brown Drain. An investigation into the factors behind the catastrophic collapse in Welsh rugby 9.30pm Voices of Sport. Ian Payne profiles John Dring, commentator of the Oxford-Cambridge boat race for more than 40 years 10.00pm Late Night Live. 1.00am Up At Night 5.00pm Morning Reports

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30am Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00pm Radio 2 7.30pm Ray Coles 10.00pm Paul Coyte 1.00am Paul Clayton 4.30pm Jimmy Clark

## TALK RADIO

6.30am The New Talk Radio Breakfast 9.00am Scott Chisholm 11.00pm Lorraine Kelly 1.00pm Anna Rasmussen 3.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm News 5.00pm The World's Best 7.00pm The World's Best 7.00pm Ian Collins and the Creators of the Night 5.00pm 8.00pm Ovation

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelawny, Michael Vaughan Williams's baroque cantata *Symphony* is preceded by a touching memorial to Britten: *Yo Me, cello*, Chinese Imperial Bell Ensemble. New London Children's Choir. Part (Cantata in G major) by Benjamin Britten; Vaughan Williams (*Symphony No 4*) 8.20pm The Chinese-American Dream. See Chorus, 8.40pm, part two. Ten Dun (*Symphony 1997*, Heaven, Earth, Markland) 10.10pm Promenade Private View. Nicholas Jackson meets Jon Thompson, perhaps the most important figure who has taught art in Britain over the last thirty years. At Goldsmiths' College in the 1960s he directly influenced the current generation of artists, but he now lives in self-imposed exile in Antwerp (1) 10.35pm Jose Rodriguez Esteves. Choral music by the little-known Portuguese composer including the monumental *Missa for Eight Voices* 11.30pm Jean Sibelius. *Baldernichte* and *All That Jazz*. A concert given at the Kingston-upon-Thames Jazz Festival at which Alan Piller narrates his personal view of the jazz world, supported by the Kenny Baker Band 12.00pm Proms Composer of the Week: Handel (1) 1.00am Through the Night

## RADIO 4

6.00am Today Includes 6.56, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Synthes Sachel, leading American drive, steps out of Hollywood into Portliff Bay. Can the locals cope as living begins? (1/5) (1) 9.30 The Vale. An eight-part documentary series about a wildlife charity rescue centre near Evesham 9.45 (FM) Gods A Biography of the Field That Changed the World. Rick Stein meets Mark Kurlansky's history of the humble cod (1/5) 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 News: Woman's Hour 11.00 News: Desert de Corps. A look behind the scenes at Acadia 11.30 Tom's Midnight Garden, by Philippa Pearce. Described in words by Judy Allen. With Peter England, Sue Stubbs and Crawford Logan (1) 12.00 (FM) News: You and Yours 12.57 Weather 12.00 (LW) News: Headlines: Shipping Forecast 1.00 The World at One, with Denis Daley 1.30 Words in Motion, with Denis Daley 2.00 News: The Archers (1) 2.15 News: Afternoon Play: The Big Hot Summer, by Bill Taylor. Operating from a tree house, two 12-year-olds become secret investigators (1) 3.00 Inside Money: Safe as Houses (1) 3.30 A Childhood of Play. Michael Rosen looks at how up to the Second World War (1) 3.45 News: The Food Programme: Andrew Jefford. Investigates the contribution that Britain has made to the world of wine (1) 4.00 News: The Food Programme: Andrew Jefford. Investigates the contribution that Britain has made to the world of wine (1) 4.30 Four Corners, with Keith Allen 5.00pm 5.57 Weather 6.00pm St. O'Clock News 6.30pm Just a Minute, with Nicholas Parsons 7.15pm From Row. Mark Lawson has the last word on *Amateurism*, Hollywood's latest big-budget disaster film

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8; RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3, FM 92.3-92.4; RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.5; LW 198; MW 720; RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 963, 908; WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 189 (12.45-5.55am); CLASSIC FM, FM 100.702; VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.9; MW 1197, 1215; TALK RADIO, MW 1055, 1060. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.









**COMPANIES 39**  
Venture funds  
focus on  
Rank outlook

# BUSINESS

**PROFILE 41**  
How Thames  
hopes to keep  
cash flowing



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

## Millennium bug stirs City jitters

By TIMON DAY

A NUMBER of worried City institutions and fund managers have written to companies in which they have investments demanding that they spell out how much progress they have made towards tackling the "millennium bug". The City is growing increasingly concerned that many companies' computer systems will fail as the year 2000 begins, so endangering the value of those companies' shares.

Institutional investors have been gradually waking up to this problem but most are now taking action, with the mighty Prudential taking the lead with a statement earlier this year saying it was contacting all its investments for reassurance.

The Stock Exchange recently instructed companies to spell out in their annual reports what action they are taking on the millennium problem and the likely cost. In the US the financial authorities gave business the same order four years ago.

Foreign & Colonial, the biggest investment trust manager, says it is happy to wait for companies to comply with Stock Exchange regulations

and will judge their progress on that basis.

"We can't do anything else as otherwise it would be insider information," said an F&C spokesperson.

Rivals have taken a less passive approach, however. Mercury Asset Management, one of the biggest managers, said: "We are clearly concerned that British business should be Year 2000 compliant. Part of our on-going research into over 5,000 companies seeks to ensure that our investments will be compliant before the millennium."

Phillips & Drew has written to the UK's top 350 companies over the past couple of months but has received responses from only about half of them. P&D claims its two-page questionnaire is better than most, starting with basic questions such as, "Have you initiated a Year 2000 project?" and following these up with a further 25 questions aimed at discovering the size of the problem and how it is being tackled.

Another fund manager, M&G, is asking its 3,000 investments to complete two-page questionnaires when they are assessed at private meetings during the year. "We

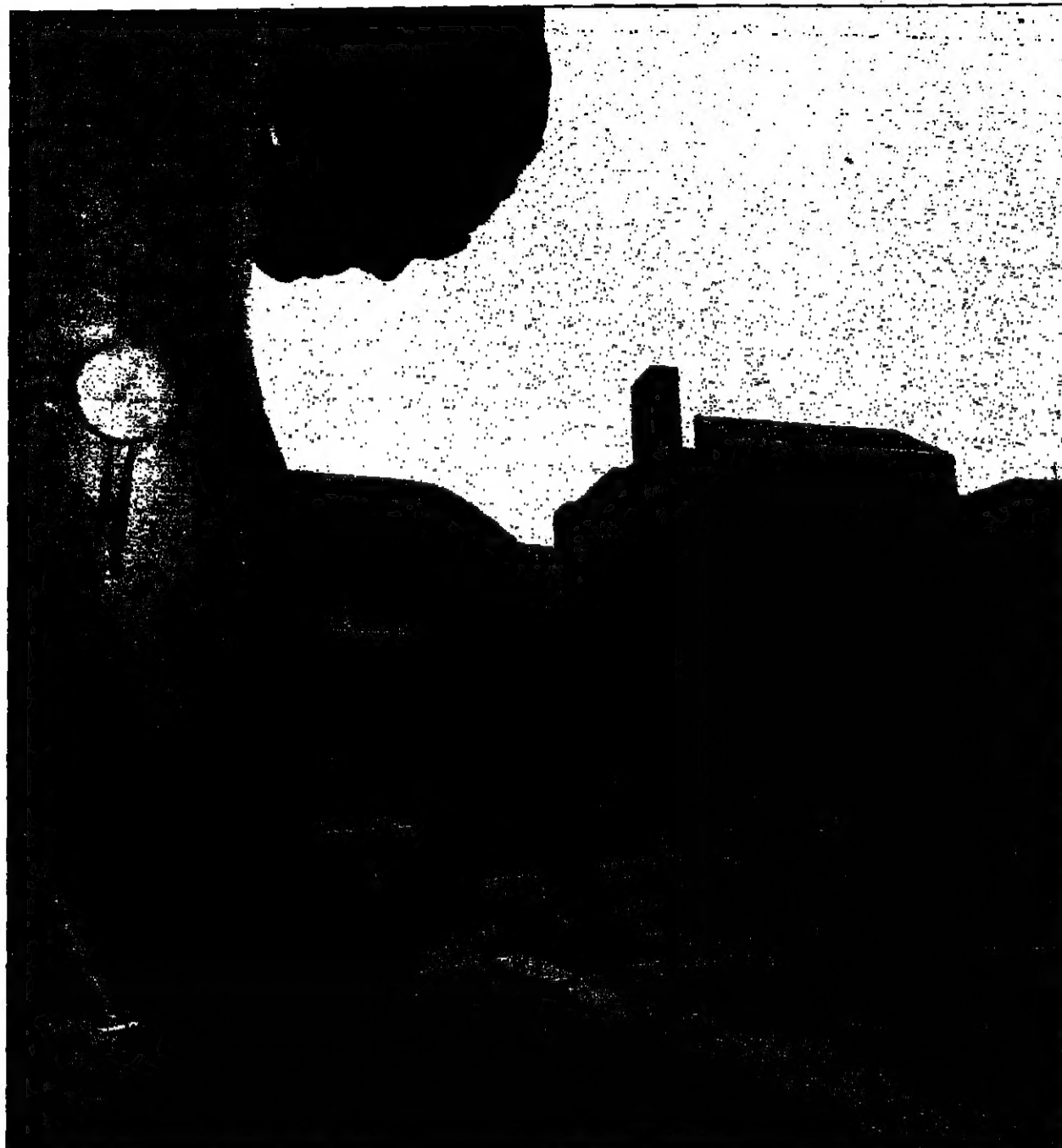
need to find out the scale of the problem, the amount of resources the company is devoting to solving it and the rate of progress," said M&G.

Schroders Asset Management is asking its investments what they are doing but refuses to say anything until an autumn statement on the subject. Others, such as Hermes, the old Post Office pension fund manager, are refusing to comment on what action they are taking.

One analyst said the biggest problem was inaction, because this could lead to investors selling their shares because they are unable to assess the profit impact.

The majority of top companies are already engaged in de-bugging their systems. These range from BT spending £100 million to Colefax & Fowler, the wallpaper and design company, spending only £25,000 on new PCs and servers.

The millennium bug is due to most computers' inability to tell the difference between the year 1900 and the year 2000. This basic mistake by manufacturers and software writers is calculated to have a global cost as high as £200 billion.



The British Library project's electric cabling problems resulted in Commercial Union paying out more than £8.4 million

## Builder cited in British Library shambles

By ADAM JONES

A COURT case arising from the shambolic British Library construction project at King's Cross in London has ended in an embarrassing loss for the last Government and for Balfour Beatty, part of the RICC Group.

Commercial Union, the insurers of the Department of National Heritage (DNH) — now renamed the Department of Culture, Media and Sport — sued SVM, a firm of design and maintenance consultants, to reclaim more than £8.4 million that it paid out after problems with electric cabling. SVM designed and supervised the cable work. The DNH claimed SVM was to blame for the damage and resultant delay.

However, Judge Peter Bowsher, QC, ruled that it was mainly the fault of Balfour Beatty, which installed the cables. He also criticised the DNH for "indecision" and said that the DNH and Laing Management, another contractor, were partly responsible.

Judge Bowsher said that Balfour was guilty of bad workmanship, adding: "A comparatively small number of men caused extensive damage."

Commercial Union will now have to pay costs estimated at £2.5 million.

## City hopeful of peg in interest rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City is hopeful that the Bank of England will leave rates on hold at its meeting this week, although memories of the unexpected rate rise in June have left the market distinctly nervous.

A string of weak data, including a fall in the inflation rate and a dismal Confederation of British Industry manufacturing survey, have left a clear majority of City economists

believing the Monetary Policy Committee will not raise rates above the existing level of 7.5 per cent.

However, another increase in the average earnings figures, the slide in the value of the pound during the past month and Gordon Brown's plans to increase public spending, means there is still a large degree of uncertainty about whether rates have peaked.

The Bank might take some comfort from two sets of data published today which suggest that labour market pressures are easing.

The CBI/Pannell Kerr Forster survey of small and medium-sized (SME) manufacturing companies shows employment levels falling for the first time in four years, with the number of job cuts expected to accelerate in the coming months.

SMEs are feeling the pain of high interest rates and the strong pound, with companies suffering the largest fall in total orders since October 1991.

The separate Industrial Relations Service survey of wage deals in the three months to June showed earnings growth steady at 3.5 per cent. The IRS said that wage deals do not seem to have accelerated again despite the rise in inflation in April and May, which prompted worries that earnings would head higher.

Richard Illey, UK economist at ABN-AMRO, accepted that the Bank's decision is on a "knife-edge". However, he added: "The growing evidence of the domestic slowdown

should be enough to ensure rates have peaked at 7.5 per cent."

Mr Illey's view was backed by the Shadow Monetary Policy Committee, a group of leading independent economists who monitor the Bank's performance. They concluded that interest rates should remain unchanged.

However, Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, predicted that the Bank will make another quarter-point rise.

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## Pace issues writ against Californian supplier

By CHRIS AXLES

PACE Micro Technology, the maker of "set-top boxes" for digital television, has issued a writ against a Californian software house after it allegedly twice threatened to cut off Pace's supply of key components.

The West Yorkshire company has already started delivering set-top boxes — the devices needed to receive digital broadcasts — to BSkyB, the satellite operator 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times. Pace also

has a contract to supply set-top boxes to ONdigital, BSkyB's terrestrial competitor.

The dispute concerns the way Pace uses microchips loaded with software produced by Macrovision of Sunnyvale, California. It is thought that Macrovision objects to its software being sold by Pace under the trademark of Gradiente, the name of one of Pace's European subcontractors.

According to a writ issued

by Pace against Macrovision — a copy of which has been obtained by The Times — the Californian company has twice written to Pace, most recently on July 14, threatening to cut off the supply of microchips.

Pace yesterday confirmed that it had taken legal action, and added: "Undertakings from Macrovision have been agreed between the parties ensuring that there will be no interruption to Pace's business."

**TIMES TWO CROSSWORD**

No 1474

ACROSS

1 Wisdom (8)  
5 Animal, its fur (4)  
8 Path to take (5)  
9 Sharp reply (7)  
11 Piercing tool (3)  
12 Cavalier opponent (9)  
13 Lesbian poet (6)  
15 Scheduled: heeled over (6)  
18 Binding up (wound) (9)  
19 Enactment (3)  
20 Passage (from book) (7)  
21 In the midst of (5)  
22 Tot (of whisky) (4)  
23 Ancestor (8)

DOWN

1 Outdo (7)  
2 Thin porridge (5)  
3 Dispel bad feeling (5,3,3)  
4 Part of trousers (4-2): arrive (4,2)  
6 Formally look over (7)  
7 Press, shape, with hands (5)  
10 Where Great Fire of London started (7,4)  
14 Universal cure (7)  
16 Titled widow (7)  
17 French café (6)  
18 Mixture (5)  
19 Unconfined (5)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1473**

ACROSS: 1 Years 7 Headway 8 Calorie 9 Prilly 11 Throat 13 Desultory 15 Quadraped 19 Daniel 21 Stripes 23 Popular 24 Freesia 25 Ranch

DOWN: 1 Yacht 2 Allure 3 Spread 4 Chef 5 Adrift 6 Battery 10 Roused 12 Tenure 14 Battery 16 Driver 17 Dapper 18 Violin 20 Lurch 22 Spar

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